



Owen links JMB with gold swoop

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The name of Johnson Matthey Bankers was yesterday linked with a large-scale gold smuggling operation during Commons questions on a Customs and Excise operation in which 27 premises were raided, and JMB files were examined.

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, told the House: "Customs and Excise believe that something like £7½ million worth of gold bullion may have been smuggled into this country since April last year up until 11 days ago."

"There is reason to believe that this smuggling of gold and the purchase of this gold at a below market price by Johnson Matthey has been continuing for some considerable time."

In the wake of the 1984 Bank of England rescue operation for JMB, Dr Owen said that the news of the raids posed questions over the judgment of the Prime Minister, who had refused a tribunal of inquiry of Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had given assurances that JMB's bullion trading was sound, and of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank of England Governor, who had told him in December 1984 that allegations about JMB's bullion operation were "ill-informed" and "ill-founded".

Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South

and Shoreditch who has campaigned for an inquiry into the JMB rescue, reminded the House that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the main reason for saving Johnson Matthey Bank was to sustain confidence in the bullion market.

He called for a debate on "today's announcement that bullion has been smuggled into this country, sold at below market price, followed by value added tax claims at full market price."

Mr Dennis Skinner, the Labour MP for Bolsover, condemned government "inconsistencies and double standards" linking the JMB rescue and the proposed closure of the Bates colliery.

He said that it was now known that there had been gold smuggling and asked why miners should be subject to "hypocritical standards when the bankers of the City of London get away with murder at the taxpayers' expense?"

Dr Owen failed in an attempt to get an emergency Commons debate, but Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, told Mr Neil Kinnock that he would look into the possibility of a debate or a ministerial statement.

Earlier, Dr Owen said during Prime Minister's question time: "There are some £185 million worth of this country's money in JMB. In view of that fact and that the Governor of

the Bank of England has repeatedly said that the bank and gold bullion business of JMB is sound, will the Prime Minister now set up a tribunal of inquiry?"

Mr Thatcher said that she would not. "I understand that Customs officers visited a number of premises today, including Johnson Matthey. They visited these this morning in the course of investigations into possible value added tax irregularities involving gold."

Dr Owen wrote to Mr Lawson in November and December 1984, after the Bank of England rescue of JMB, saying that his "main anxiety was that, in spite of assurances to the contrary, the bank's bullion operations were 'in serious trouble' and were making 'sizeable losses'."

He was told by Mr Leigh-Pemberton on December 21, 1984: "The problems which gave rise to the rescue operation for JMB arose in the commercial loan book and do not arise in relation to its bullion and other dealing operations which have been and remain profitable."

"Your assertions and attempts to demonstrate that the bullion operations of JMB are basically unsound, would, I believe, diminish the confidence of its customers and counterparties and their willingness to do business with it."



The Prince of Wales being presented with a buttonhole yesterday when he and the Princess of Wales visited a job-creation centre in Brixton, south-east London.

Boycott under guard in Trinidad

Former England Test cricketer Geoff Boycott was yesterday under guard at a Port of Spain hotel after he was released entry into Trinidad.

The British Consul on the Caribbean island confirmed that Boycott, covering England's tour of the West Indies for the Mail on Sunday, and Matthew Engel, cricket correspondent for The Guardian, had been refused permission to land by Trinidad authorities because they did not have work permits.

The consul, Mr Wavell Major, said they were being held under guard at the Holiday Inn in the capital until the British flight was allowed to land on Friday.

Mr Major said the men had arrived from Kingston, Jamaica on a British West-Indian Airways flight late on Wednesday night.

"They were asked what they were here for. They said they were writers covering the cricket, and were told, 'You don't have a work permit, ignorance is no excuse'."

Boycott and Engel were taken under escort from Piarco airport, 20 miles outside Port of Spain, to the Holiday Inn, where they are being guarded in adjoining rooms.

Mr Major said Sir Martin Berthoud, the British High Commissioner, was meeting senior officials "to protest and to ensure fair treatment".

He said several journalists were already in Port of Spain and he understood one had been allowed to land without a work permit.

Boycott said last night that he was staying "calm and cool" inside his hotel, waiting for a call from Sir Martin.

"Matthew Engel and myself have been refused entry because we have no work permits. We arrived last night from Kingston, Jamaica, and were told immediately that we had no work permits to work as journalists", Boycott said.

"We had not been told about this before. We have been told to stay inside the hotel."

Ha said: "I have no idea what will happen to us."

Geoff Boycott, ordered to stay inside hotel

Mother freezes to death outside neighbour's door

A 29-year-old mother is believed to have frozen to death yesterday just feet from a friend's front door.

Mrs Moira Thompson was apparently on her way to collect her two children from a neighbour's home when she collapsed in sub-zero temperatures in the garden. She was wearing only a dress.

Mrs Thompson, who was separated from her husband, had been out for the evening with a friend. She left her children, Jackie, aged 13, and Paul, aged eight, with Mrs Tricia Cant in Tegfan, Llansamlet, Swansea.

Mrs Cant expected the children to be collected yesterday morning. But after arriving home at 2am Mrs Thompson set off for Mrs Cant's council house. It was only 150 yards away and she did not bother putting on a coat. Another neighbour, Mr Garry Coombes, found her body early yesterday.

Mrs Cant said Mr Coombes banged on her door shouting that there was a body in the garage.

"I was stunned when I realised it was Moira. She was blue all over and looked horrible," she said.

South Wales police refused to reveal the findings of a post mortem examination, but said four play was not suspected. Hypothermia was the most obvious cause of death, bearing in mind the weather. It was minus 5C at the time.

Local social security offices were told yesterday to make extra heating payments to people on supplementary benefit "a matter of urgency" and to make publicizing the payments and ensuring the elderly and others receive help a priority (Nicholas Timmins writes).

The independent Chief Adjudicator Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security told local DHSS offices that given the unusually cold weather - the coldest February since 1963 in many parts of the country - it was "surprising" that more offices had not declared the payments to be available.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Social Security, said yesterday that 360 out of a total of 450 offices had now declared the payments to be available and that "the effect of this new measure... that even more areas are likely to be designated".

Actual help with fuel bills, however, will not be available to many claimants for some weeks as some local offices may want to see a comparison with previous fuel bills.

The official Meteorological Office line is that by Tuesday the blocking weather pattern which has locked Britain into cold easterly winds will be breaking up, and warmer air from the Atlantic will reach Scotland and Northern Ireland on that day (Robin Young writes).

This should bring warmer and more changeable weather to the south by Wednesday.

Dorset firemen were last night battling to control a large fire which strong winds were driving towards British Petroleum's Wyth Farm oilfield, near Corfe Castle in Dorset. The fire has destroyed most of Godminster Heath and may have endangered some rare plants and animals.

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, is to marry for a third time, it was announced yesterday.

His bride will be Miss Deirdre Shannon, his former legal secretary, who went to work for him in 1948 when he returned to the bar after the Second World War. Lord Hailsham is 78 and Miss Shannon 57.

Miss Shannon, now a senior secretary in a London research establishment, was a close friend of both Lord Hailsham and his second wife, Mary, who died in 1978 after a marriage which lasted 34 years.

The Lord Chancellor beamed at peers in the House of Lords as he opened yesterday's proceedings, but at that time few knew about his forthcoming marriage. Mr Richard Stoute, Lord Hailsham's private secretary, said that it had been kept secret because both Lord Hailsham and Miss Shannon were keen to have a quiet wedding as possible. But they have not announced a date.

Lord Hailsham married his first wife, Natalie, in 1932, but was divorced 11 years later. He has two sons and three daughters by his second marriage.

Twelve held in Customs raids

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Customs officers investigating a multi-million pound VAT gold fraud yesterday searched the records of Johnson Matthey Bankers on gold dealings before launching raids in London and Birmingham leading to 12 arrests.

The VAT fraud was estimated yesterday at £750,000, and officers recovered a total of 2.5 kilos of gold from a London address during raids. Charges are expected today.

As the men held by the investigators were still being questioned last night, both the Bank of England, which now oversees JMB, and senior Customs officers denied that any suspicion of fraud fell on the bank. No JMB staff were arrested and no JMB premises were raided.

Last year detectives from the City police fraud squad began investigations into JMB, which had to be rescued after it collapsed in 1984 with losses of more than £240 million. Since the investigations began MPs have made a number of claims about JMB's affairs and the way the bank was run.

According to Customs sources, gold worth more than £5 million is involved in the VAT case. JMB had bought gold as part of its role as a bank dealing in gold bullion and it had paid VAT as it was required to do to suppliers. VAT rules require gold suppliers to collect 15 per cent VAT

from gold buyers and pass it to Customs.

In a statement after the announcement of the Customs investigation, codenamed "Operation Enlente", the Bank of England said: "JMB are providing assistance to Customs by confirming their records of certain transactions in gold. JMB appear to have bought gold and paid the VAT to suppliers who failed to pay the VAT. JMB are of course cooperating fully with Customs and their hope is this matter relating to transactions undertaken by certain bullion traders will be clarified expeditiously."

Fifty Customs investigators were involved in yesterday's operation, which involved raids or visits to 27 premises. Yesterday morning Customs officers examined JMB records and then sent out search teams. The 2.5 kilos of gold were recovered in west London.

Investigator believe gold was bought from Swiss banks and then smuggled to Britain. In a number of recent VAT frauds gold has then been put on the market by apparently legitimate companies registered to collect VAT.

When Customs investigators then began to check the companies they found they had been set up by individuals trading under false names.

Militant end 'in sight'

Labour's onslaught against Militant marked the beginning of the end for the Trotskyist tendency in Liverpool, Mr Neil Kinnock said last night (Richard Evans writes).

He said the evidence uncovered during a three month internal inquiry was "of such a nature and of such seriousness as to have wide implications".

Mr Kinnock was asked to comment on the remark by Mr Charles Turnock, who headed the inquiry, that the beginning of the eradication of Militant in Liverpool was underway.

He said: "That statement was absolutely correct." "An inquiry needs evidence and when there is evidence of activity and organization against the constitution then effective action is taken. Action is being taken."

It appears unlikely that the evidence against up to 16 Militant supporters in Liverpool will be published. Labour's throne, page 2

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The pound fell to its lowest ever level against the German mark yesterday, as oil prices dropped. Sterling lost four pence to DM3.29.

The sterling index was down 0.6 points to 74.7, while against a generally weak dollar the pound dipped 60 points to \$1.4832.

Share prices rose to new highs, with markets encouraged by the approved prospect for exporters that the lower pound would bring. The FT 30-share index rose 11.3 points to a record closing high of 1281.5.

The price of North Sea Brent crude oil for delivery in April fell to \$15 a barrel. Details, page 21

Toll mounts in Cairo fighting

From Robert Fisk, Cairo

Despite repeated assertions by the Egyptian Government that security had been restored to Cairo after two nights of fighting between Egyptian troops and militant security police, soldiers and rebel paramilitary forces opened fire on each other again near the Pyramids yesterday.

The fighting was at least isolated and a 24-hour curfew - relaxed for three hours during the day to allow the 12 million people of the city to obtain food - was still in force last night as troops loyal to President Mubarak patrolled the streets in armoured personnel carriers and tanks.

The latest battle took place around the camp belonging to the Central Security Police at

Giza, where the original mutiny against the Government broke out on Tuesday night. Reporters who managed to reach the scene on the edge of the desert behind the Mena House Hotel found Egyptian soldiers firing into the compound with automatic weapons and tank cannon. If the violence has now diminished, Mr Mubarak's own credibility - indeed, the future of his regime here - looks less certain.

The President's senior political adviser, Mr Osama al-Baz, is insisting that the street battles, which cost the lives of at least 36 people, did not constitute a mass uprising.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the Egyptian people oppose this because it does not represent their views or aspirations," he maintained yesterday.

Nevertheless, the participation in fighting in other cities of fundamentalist elements, together with growing signs of anti-Western feeling on the streets of Cairo, suggest that Mr al-Baz's summary of the situation could be hopelessly over-optimistic.

Opposition politicians here are already demanding the resignation of Mr Ahmed Rusht, the Interior Minister, who theoretically controls the security police, and President Mubarak may be lucky if the departure of this senior minister and close personal friend is the only price he has to pay.

Although the Government still says that the mutiny was instigated by "false rumours" that terms of enlistment were being extended from three to four years, there can be little

doubt that Egypt's economic problems lie behind the violence.

Of the 36 people whom the Government here acknowledged to have been killed, 32 were from the security police, two from the Army and two civilians; 273 of the 321 people wounded were security policemen.

The Government, however, is less anxious to disclose the number of people arrested without charge although unofficial estimates say that as many as 2,000 may have been taken prison.

LONDON: The Foreign Office yesterday advised British holiday tour operators to keep away from Egypt for the time being (Nicholas Ashford writes). Leading article page 17

Ulster link to Britain at risk says minister

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government warned leaders of the Ulster Unionists yesterday that they were threatening the union with Britain, and appealed to them to call off Monday's strike in the province against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Ministers told Ulster Unionist leaders that they would bear the responsibility for lives and jobs put at risk by their actions, and the Prime Minister declared in the Commons that the strike would not deflect the Government from its determination to implement the agreement.

The Cabinet yesterday discussed the latest breakdown in relations between the Government and the Unionists and it was clear from the strong language of ministers afterwards that the possibility of a breach in the union is not discounted.

In the Commons, Mr Merlyn Rees, the former Labour Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that while it was true there was no way in which the North could be put into the South against its wishes, it was equally true that the union between Britain and Northern Ireland could be broken by the Unionists and there was a grave danger that it might happen.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, replied: "I do fear that the threat to the union could come from those who most claim to espouse it. At the moment some of them are embarking on a course in direct collision with the views of this sovereign imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom. This is a very serious matter."

Mrs Thatcher said later that she hoped the strike would not take place, but added: "If it

does and if it takes place in the name of Unionism I believe that it would lead to the erosion of support for the union in the United Kingdom."

All the Unionist MPs, apart from Mr Enoch Powell, again boycotted the 40-minute Question Time session for Northern Ireland ministers. Remarking on their absence Mr King said: "I know the strength of feeling there is over this matter in Northern Ireland. I respect that."

"All of us who are democrats know it is this chamber in which those matters would be discussed and argued. A policy of abstention, an unwillingness even to enter into debate and argument, is not a policy of strength but a policy of weakness and a policy of disaster."

Mr King said that every step possible would be taken on Monday to ensure the protection of the citizen and to help defeat the cause of intimidation. But he said: "The only absolutely certain outcome of it is that it is going to be damaging to jobs in a province that desperately needs more jobs."

Mr King warned that Monday's strike could put great strains on the resources of the security forces. "In that respect it may put at risk others, particularly if there were to be problems with terrorism."

The Prime Minister last night had an hour-long meeting with Mr John Hume, leader of the Social and Democratic Labour Party, in which he reaffirmed his party's willingness to enter discussions on devolution at any time without preconditions.

Barclays abolishes mortgage premium

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank yesterday followed the other leading banks in stepping up competition in the home loan market by abolishing the premium on endowment mortgages.

It now looks inevitable that building societies will follow suit in the next few weeks. Barclays is cutting its endowment rate from 14 per cent to 13 per cent for about 10,000 existing borrowers.

This will mean a reduction in monthly repayments of £1.70 for every £1,000 borrowed. The interest rate on ordinary repayment mortgages remains at 13 per cent.

Barclays is also doubling its maximum mortgage to £100,000 to £200,000. Building societies reacted to the news by promising reduc-

tions in their endowment rates. "The endowment premium is dead," Mr John Bayliss, general manager of the Abbey National, said.

Mr Bayliss said that building societies had a higher proportion of endowment borrowers than the banks, so repayment rates might have to rise slightly to make up the loss in revenue.

He added that mortgage rates in general would fall by about half a percentage point around Budget time if bank base lending rates fell.

Earlier this week National Westminster and Midland abolished the extra charge on endowment mortgages, although Lloyds was the first bank to do this for new borrowers.

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Tomorrow

Life as a gamble



Françoise Sagan writes in Games of Chance of her fatal fascination with the gaming tables of Cannes, Deauville and Berkeley Square

On the boards

Liza Minnelli, back on stage in London

Portfolio

Two winners shared the Times Portfolio daily competition prize of £2,000 yesterday: Mr R H Bates of East Horsley, Surrey, and Mr C Evans, of Selsey on Thames. Portfolio list, page 24; how to play, information service, back page. Tomorrow, £22,000 can be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

Sofia off the hook

The acquittal of three Bulgarians accused of conspiracy to murder the Pope was demanded yesterday by the prosecution in the Rome trial, on the ground of insufficient evidence Page 7

Groce charge

Police Inspector Douglas Lovelock of South London has been accused of unlawful wounding after the shooting of Mrs Cherry Groce during a police raid last year. The incident led to the Brixton riots

Sex tests cut

Two paratroopers, jailed for indecency against a woman soldier, had their terms cut in the Court of Appeal after the judge said the victims were sexually depraved Page 3

Table with 3 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Features, Law Report, Leaders, Letters, Motoring, Night sky, Obituary, Parliament, Sale Room, Science, Sport Reports, Spectator, Theatre, TV & Radio, Weather

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Legal guidelines used to convict miners of murder were 'defective'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Legal guidelines which misled a jury into convicting two Welsh miners of murder were "defective", the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

Giving reasons for their decision last December to uphold the substitution of manslaughter convictions against the two miners, Lord Scarman said that, as they stood, the guidelines were "unsafe and misleading". They should not be used without "further explanation".

The five Law Lords upheld the decision by the Court of Appeal to alter the convictions against Reginald Dean Hancock, aged 22, and Russell Shankland, aged 21, who caused the death of David Wilkie, a taxi driver, as he drove a working miner to the pit during the miners' dispute.

Mr Wilkie was crushed when a concrete post dropped from a bridge hit his cab. The two men, of Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan, were sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court to life imprisonment for murder but successfully appealed to the Court of Appeal, which substituted eight-year jail terms. The Crown in turn appealed to the House of Lords.

In their defence, Hancock and Shankland said that they had meant to block the road to stop the miner going to work but had never intended to kill or seriously harm anyone.

Giving judgement yesterday, Lord Scarman said that the case had called for a

careful direction by the judge to the jury as to the state of mind that had to be proved before they could return a verdict of murder.

The trial judge's direction as to the intention required by law was "impeccable" and when he had come to help the jury on the facts the judge had offered guidance along the lines proposed by the House of Lords in *Moloney*, a case which concerned a soldier who shot the father who loved him in a drunken duel.

"The Cardiff jury had been 'plainly perplexed' by the legal issues in the case, Lord Scarman said. 'The *Moloney* guidelines, as they stood, were 'unsafe and unsatisfactory'."

There was always a danger that general guidelines might be misleading in some cases and he would not advise their use by trial judges when summing up to a jury.

Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Roskill, Lord Brightman and Lord Griffiths agreed in dismissing the appeal.

Mr Tom Berris was heading for another clash with Mr Neil Kinnock last night after introducing a Justice for Mineworkers Bill which he promised would become law under the next Labour government (Richard Evans writes).

drawn up by the hard-left Campaign Group of Labour MPs.

Its provisions include a review of all cases of miners convicted of criminal offences, including two jailed for manslaughter, reinstatement of dismissed miners and reimbursement of sequestered National Union of Mineworkers funds.

Members of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers were warned yesterday of "violence and intimidation" opposing their attempts to restore democracy to the coalfields.

Mr Neil Greatrex, president of Nottinghamshire UDM, told delegates to the area's first annual conference at Sutton-in-Ashfield, to avoid the "destructive tactics" of the National Union of Mineworkers.

He referred to "scandal-mongering and lies" perpetrated by the NUM and added: "They will attempt to destroy democracy."

Mr Greatrex said the UDM hoped that democracy would be restored to "all mineworkers in Great Britain".

But he added: "I appeal to all of you, don't slacken off. Don't think the battle is won."

Mr Greatrex, who was making the opening address, said that the UDM faced a "most traumatic" two-year period but it was establishing itself as a "national union in every sense".



Liverpool Militant jewel a septic thorn in Labour side

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

In 1981, before Labour's national executive decided on the expulsion of Militant's five leaders, it was claimed that the Trotskyist tendency had supporters in 400 constituency Labour parties.

At the time, Mr Ted Grant, the founding father of the far-left sect, said: "We will reach the other 200 as well. We have about 60 full-time organizers."

When the five leaders were formally expelled four years ago it was estimated that Militant's membership numbered more than 3,500. The latest estimate is that there are 150 full-time organizers and that Labour's party within a party has more money and a more sophisticated political machine than Mr Neil Kinnock could dream of.

Labour leaders and party officials constantly dismiss the power and influence of Militant. Mr Kinnock this week called it a splinter of a party which boasted 350,000 members. His previous description of the Liverpool tendency as a maggot was more colorful and just as inaccurate.

Militant is a thorn in Labour's side. The wound has gone septic and the poison has spread throughout the party's national network, with particularly strong power bases in Merseyside, South Wales, Scotland and London.

At the last Labour conference in Bournemouth, Militant sellers were present in force, most of them holding

their daily quota of newspapers across their chests in order to hide their conference accreditation.

It is an offence under the Labour constitution to belong to a secret organization with its "own programme, principles and policy for distinctive and separate propaganda, possessing branches in the constituencies".

Yet it is well known that Militant has branches throughout the country. During the Bournemouth conference, Militant carried messages of support from as far afield as Glasgow, East Kilbride, Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Coventry, Birmingham, Watford, Harlow, Stevenage, Cambridge, Brighton, Bournemouth, Swindon, Bath, Bristol and The Wrekin.

That's not to mention at least 12 constituencies in Wales, even more in London, and the concentrations of Trotskyist influence around Merseyside and Manchester.

Labour's official response to such suggestions of influence is to point to the low-level expulsions that are taking place quietly within the constituency parties, and to the constituencies that have turned their backs on Militant's parliamentary nominees.

Certainly, constituency parties have refused to select Militant supporters in Gateshead, East, East Kilbride,

Glasgow Pollak and Glasgow Provan.

But Mr Dave Nellist, MP for Coventry South East, and Mr Terry Fields, MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, both Liverpool Militant supporters, have been re-elected as candidates for the next election. They have also been endorsed by the national executive.

Expulsions are reported to have taken place in Blackburn, Rhondda, Warley West, Newcastle East, Mansfield, Havant, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Isle of Wight, Sheffield Attercliffe and Telford. Two Cardiff Militant supporters, Mr Chris Pugh and Mr Tony Wedlake, are now set for expulsion by the national executive. Former Militant candidates have also been ditched in Brighton Kempston and Isle of Wight.

But Militant held an open and public rally for more than 4,000 of its supporters at the Albert Hall, London, in November, and although Mr Kinnock would dearly love to get rid of the lot of them he is constrained by the practical realities of Labour politics: the left would not allow it.

He is therefore left with the gesture of expelling up to 16 of Liverpool's leading Militants, knowing full well that their wards will still provide them with party cards and that Militant will remain as the jewel in the Trotskyist crown, the thorn in Labour's side.

Militants out 'or branches will close'

By Peter Davenport

Labour Party branches in Liverpool will be closed if they defy the national executive committee and allow expelled Militant members to attend meetings.

The warning was given yesterday by Mr Ray Gill, Labour's north-west regional organizer, who will oversee the reformation of the party machine in the city. Sixteen party members in Liverpool have been called to answer charges of Militant membership at next month's meeting of the NEC and it is likely that up to 10 of them, including the council's deputy leader, Mr Derek Hatton, will be expelled.

However, six constituencies and 33 wards in Liverpool have already voted against accepting expulsions. They may also select expelled individuals as candidates for local elections.

Yesterday Mr Gill said: "Once expelled, they will be ineligible as candidates. It may mean candidates having to be imposed on branches."

Mr Gill added that if the Labour group in Liverpool insisted on regarding Mr Derek Hatton as its deputy leader, even after expulsion, the NEC would have to rule.

"My advice would be that, once expelled, a person can't participate in Labour Party business. You can't use back-door methods to get what you want."

However, an indication of the difficulties that lie ahead for Labour in its battle to rid its ranks of Militant came yesterday from Mr Hatton.

He said: "The party in Liverpool has said, and many branches and constituencies have said already, that they won't let constitutional manoeuvres stand in the way of the rights of wards and constituencies to choose their candidates."

The District Labour Party in Liverpool, where Militant exercised much of its influence, is still in suspension and, until a new organization is created, party affairs will be dealt with by a temporary coordinating committee of representatives from constituent unions, socialist societies and the party's regional office in Manchester, as recommended in the report of the NEC inquiry.

Mr Gill said that the reorganization would bring Liverpool into line with other big cities but he was aware it may not be a smooth transition.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told MPs at Question Time: "To ban newspapers is small-minded, and snacks of censorship."

Tower Hamlets Council in London said no further action was planned against Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International after receiving assurances that the company is taking steps to reduce night-time noise at Wapping.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, attacked News International for dismissing print workers.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service said last night that no approach had been received from the print unions for talks with News International.

The traditional newspaper unions and the electricians' union EETPU, which they accuse of taking jobs at Wapping, decided on making a joint approach to the company in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

Mr Neil Kinnock last night backed the lifting of the Labour Party's ban on speaking to News International journalists during the Fulham by-election (Philip Webster writes).

The first breach in the ban imposed after News International's move to Wapping occurred earlier this week when the party's powerful campaign strategy committee agreed that the ban was impractical and damaging to Labour's chances in the by-election campaign.

The proposal will now go before the NEC on March 5. If passed, News International journalists will be able to attend Fulham press conferences and by-election events.

Parliament, page 4

Workers in protest at print vandals

By Michael Horsnell

Members of Sogat '82 working for newspaper wholesalers in the provinces are threatening to leave the printing union after picket line vandalism by their London colleagues.

Unless incidents, which are part of the protests against the dismissal of 5,000 striking workers by News International, are stopped members will call for a ballot on whether to remain in the union.

The vandalism has centred on the distribution centre of wholesalers W.H. Smith at Northampton from which copies of the three weekly supplements of *The Times*, produced on local presses, are distributed.

Early yesterday, Sogat pickets from London, backed by members of other trades unions, dashed lorries leaving the centre and cars belonging to local Sogat members with paint from aerosol cans.

W.H. Smith employs 1,800 Sogat men at 90 depots, many of which have been plagued by pickets anxious to stop delivery vehicles.

Production of *The Times* literary, higher education and educational supplements remained unaffected by the picket and by a National Graphical Association threat to black production.

Meanwhile, an attempt by a Sogat branch to secure a relaxation of the securitization order of its £17 million assets failed in the High Court.

The union's London Clerical and Administrative branch asked Mr Justice Taylor for permission to pay staff wages, an overdue telephone bill and an electricity bill.

Refusing the application, the judge said the matter could be considered at a full hearing next Tuesday.

The sequestration order was granted on February 10 for contempt of court after lawyers for News International said the union had ignored an injunction requiring it to call off a blacking instruction to Sogat members at wholesalers.

The Prime Minister yesterday condemned a decision by the Labour-controlled Derbyshire County Council to ban *The Times* from local libraries because of the dispute over News International's move to new premises at Wapping in east London.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told MPs at Question Time: "To ban newspapers is small-minded, and snacks of censorship."

Tower Hamlets Council in London said no further action was planned against Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International after receiving assurances that the company is taking steps to reduce night-time noise at Wapping.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, attacked News International for dismissing print workers.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service said last night that no approach had been received from the print unions for talks with News International.

The traditional newspaper unions and the electricians' union EETPU, which they accuse of taking jobs at Wapping, decided on making a joint approach to the company in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

Mr Neil Kinnock last night backed the lifting of the Labour Party's ban on speaking to News International journalists during the Fulham by-election (Philip Webster writes).

The first breach in the ban imposed after News International's move to Wapping occurred earlier this week when the party's powerful campaign strategy committee agreed that the ban was impractical and damaging to Labour's chances in the by-election campaign.

The proposal will now go before the NEC on March 5. If passed, News International journalists will be able to attend Fulham press conferences and by-election events.

Parliament, page 4

BBC fears threat to control

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC Board of Governors yesterday criticized Mr Winston Churchill's attempt to extend the Obscene Publications Act to television on the ground that it could lead to a lowering of controls on sex violence and strong language.

In a debate which the BBC described as wide-ranging, an indication that there was some division among governors on the subject, the board said the

Bill would result in the imposition of its minimal provision on broadcasters, and not the "more stringent and comprehensive standards" laid down in internal guidelines.

The board reaffirmed its belief that the BBC had a responsibility to maintain the highest standard, and said that this was a cardinal concern of a team of independent academics to study the level

of offensive material on television at the BBC's request, and an internal executive team is to look at the existing guidelines on violence.

The governors said they confirmed their support for creative programmes and their belief that the judgement of programme makers should continue to be informed by internal guidelines which reflect practical experience



The Post Office has issued a special set of stamps to mark the Queen's sixtieth birthday on April 21.

Each stamp (shown above) represents three decades in the Queen's life: the first, showing Princess Elizabeth aged two in 1928, then at the age of 16, then the young Queen soon after her accession, a 1958 appearance on Buckingham Palace balcony, wearing a headscarf at Badminton Horse Trials and the last, a formal portrait taken by Lord Snowdon in 1982.

The man who chose the pictures, Mr Jeffrey Matthews, a freelance designer, said the idea was to show "a picture album of the Queen through six decades".

The stamps will be available at most Post Offices from April 21.

On her birthday the Queen will attend a service of thanksgiving in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

In the evening she will attend a gala performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Equal retirement age Private sector next in line

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Officials at the departments of Employment and Health and Social Security (DHSS) were studying yesterday the European Court's ruling on retirement age as employers and the Government tried to work out its long-term implications.

The immediate effect of the ruling seems to be limited. Women working in the public sector have won the right to the same retirement age as men, and vice-versa. But employers and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) believe that the Government will have to look more broadly at the retirement and pension ages.

Miss Helen Marshall won her case under the EEC's Equal Treatment Directive, to which the United Kingdom is bound as a signatory to the Treaty of Rome.

The Government has so far failed to incorporate the directive in UK law, but the European Court ruled that the State is nevertheless bound by it as a signatory of the treaty, and thus its employees, that is, those in the public sector, have recourse to it through the courts.

Private sector employees do not have such recourse because the directive is not part of UK law and retirement and pension ages are specifically excluded from the UK equal pay and sex discrimination Acts.

As a result, the Government would have to legislate to force private sector employers to provide equal retirement. Until that happens private sector employees would not have ground for seeking equal retirement age.

The EOC said yesterday: "We believe they will have to respond by changing the law

because having one rule for the public sector and one for the private will not work in the long run."

In the short term, the only practical impact of the ruling is likely to be that women in the public sector who want to stay on past the age of 60 will be able to do so where men are also allowed to, and that men in the public sector who want to accept the financial penalties of early retirement could insist on doing so where women have the same right.

However, that raises the issue of pension age, as opposed to retirement age. State pension is paid at the age of 65 for men but at the age of 60 for women, so a man retiring at the age of 60 without an occupational pension could face five years with no income until he was 65.

The Institute of Directors said: "The Government is going to have to work out what its retirement policy is. Even if the Government does not legislate there will be pressure on private employers for a common retirement age and, whatever age employers choose, it will not in the long run be satisfactory."

"If age 60 is chosen millions of men who do not have occupational pensions would face five years when they were not entitled to the state pension and would fall back on social security."

The DHSS insisted yesterday that the ruling has no direct bearing on pension age. But the EOC and some employers believe that, in the long run, it will.

The difficulty would be that a person retiring at the age of 60, whether a man or a woman, would get only 60 per cent of the state pension. That would be likely to place many on means-tested benefits.

In addition, such a scheme would probably have to be phased in over a decade so that women approaching retirement, who now expect to be able to retire at the age of 60 with a full state pension, would not find themselves disadvantaged.

Civil Servants, both men and women, already retire at the age of 60, although men are more likely to be allowed to work beyond that. Teachers have a minimum retirement age of 60, with local education authorities in general insisting on compulsory retirement for both sexes at the age of 65.

"If 65 is chosen, women will still be able to get the state pension at 60 but carry on working, something that will become more attractive if the rules on how much you can earn before your pension is cut are abolished, as the Government has promised."

The institute said it favoured a "decade of retirement", canvassed in the Government's Green Paper on social security but left out of the Social Security Bill. Ministers argue that a common pension age of 60 would cost £2.5 billion a year net in extra pensions, and that even a pension age of 63 would cost an extra £500 million.

But the ministers are still considering a flexible "decade of retirement" between the ages of 60 and 70, where the precise pension level would depend on the retirement age chosen.

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Errors led to loss of water

A combination of errors led to 140,000 people being left without water when a 100-year-old mains pipe burst, it was disclosed yesterday.

A committee of inquiry set up to look into the biggest emergency of its kind since the Second World War found much of the loss of water supplies over five days could have been avoided.

The crisis, after mains burst in Leeds, West Yorkshire, on December 9, was due to a combination of poor records, missing identification markers on key valves, and human error.

The emergency cost £320,000, but the Yorkshire Water Authority chairman, Mr Gordon Jones, said the event could not have been foreseen.

The authority has approved an 11-point action plan to improve pipeline maintenance.

Parliament, page 4

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Synod report rejects image of women as brass polishers

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Women in the Church of England are no longer exclusively arrangers of flowers, polishers of brass and makers of tea, according to a church report published yesterday.

Men now do these things too, while women chair meetings, act as churchwardens and read the lessons.

A survey conducted for the General Synod in typical parishes found that only 6 per cent of church congregations had more men than women. Men are still over-represented on local church committees, however, in spite of the trend the other way.

Three-quarters of the parishes had a man as treasurer, in a third of them, all committees were chaired by men. The "male chairman, female secretary" pattern for these committees is still strong.

Men dominate as organists, with only 15 per cent of parishes having a regular woman organist. Three out of four churches had women in the choir, however.

Women were also in great demand as leaders of discussion groups, and in more than half the parishes women assisted in the preparation of candidates for baptism, confirmation and marriage.

In more than half the parishes in the survey, men took part with women in flower arranging and catering for

church functions. Men still had a monopoly of altar serving in about half the parishes.

The survey took into account a report from a group of women in Derby diocese, which said: "Traditionally, tasks to do with, for example, food, cleaning, flowers and children were largely assigned to women."

But there was also a view that "women had no monopoly of being caring. It was clear from the list of jobs that women were encouraged to exercise leadership among children, and maybe among other women, but there was less evidence that this was practised in other areas of church life."

The group which conducted and analysed the survey said in its report that exclusive concentration on the issue of women priests "allows journalists to make extravagant statements" about the church's neglect of women.

The group recommended positive action to give women greater representation at higher levels in the church, including a policy of "head-hunting" to find and persuade suitable women to apply.

The present imbalance did not, the group felt, demonstrate deliberate discrimination against women in the more senior church

positions open to lay people. It was more likely due to lack of knowledge of women competent to serve.

It recommends that the General Synod should adopt guidelines for the appointment of women to its boards and councils, at least for a period.

On the management of finance, the survey found evidence of male monopoly. In church bureaucracy it was found that qualified women did not often apply for senior positions, although a quarter of the senior jobs at Church House, Westminster, were held by women.

The report welcomes a new attention to the wording of advertisements for posts in Church House to ensure it was clear that applications from women and men were equally welcome. There was clear anxiety to see more women in senior posts.

In other areas of administration, women had been appointed to some of the most responsible positions in the Church of England, such as vicar general of the province of Canterbury and Third Church Estates Commissioner, the survey found.

Servants of the Lord (Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SW1, £5.50).



New Blue Riband challenger

Richard Branson, owner of the Virgin Atlantic Challenger II, is being built by Brooke Yachts, of Lowestoft, Suffolk, and will cost £1.5 million. It is capable of an average speed of 45 knots and will have a strong aluminium hull, in contrast to Challenger I's twin hulls, and revolutionary life-saving system in case of trouble. It will be powered by two turbo-charged diesel engines.

The record time of three days, 10 hours, 40 minutes for the crossing from Ambrose Light, New York, to Bishop Rock lighthouse in the Isles of Scilly has been held by the SS United States since 1952 (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Hospital 'should not deliver babies'

The London Hospital maternity unit at Mile End should have been closed, a consultant obstetrician yesterday told the inquiry into allegations of incompetence against Mrs Wendy Savage.

Mrs Marjorie Hall, senior consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, made her comments after being told that it could take up to an hour to arrange for a Caesarean delivery at Mile End because of the need to get an anaesthetist from the hospital's Whitechapel site.

"It is very difficult for me to understand an obstetrics hospital which does not have an anaesthetist. We have a 'live-in' one who is always around", she said.

"If you cannot do a Caesarean within 10 or 15 minutes then you should not be delivering babies", she said.

Mr John Heady, counsel for Mrs Savage, told the inquiry that Mrs Savage had once performed a Caesarean within 12 minutes, and that during the day three operating theatres were in use at Mile End with anaesthetists on site.

Mr Ian Kennedy, counsel for the London borough of Tower Hamlets, has suggested to the inquiry that extra caution was needed in practising obstetrics at Mile End because of the delays that could occur in arranging emergency Caesarean deliveries.

Mrs Hall said the degree of attention paid by Mrs Savage to Mrs A.U., a Bengali woman whose baby died eight days after a 12-hour labour, was "perfectly proper".

Mrs Hall denied she was being "partisan" or attempting to "exonerate" in her comments on Mrs Savage's handling of the case, which other obstetricians have described as "hilarious" and "incomprehensible".

She said she had been impressed by the quality of Mrs Savage's recordings. But she admitted "surprise" at Mrs Savage's admission that she had not read the notes fully during Mrs A.U.'s progress during labour, and had missed a note saying that fresh, thick meconium had been found some hours earlier, a sign that the baby was distressed.

The hearing continues today.

Councils blamed for danger to arts

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council accused Merseyside and Islington, London, yesterday of placing the arts in their areas in jeopardy through a "policy of non-co-operation" over funding.

District and city councils in Liverpool and the London borough of Islington had failed to offer a reasonable share of income to make up for the abolition of the Metropolitan authorities. Mr Luke Ritter, the council's secretary general, said yesterday.

The financial problems which could follow abolition in April now threaten the future of Islington's Almeida Theatre and Liverpool's Everyman and Playhouse theatres.

Merseyside and Islington councils felt that they did not have a responsibility to make up the deficit caused by abolition, Mr Ritter said.

The Arts Council was willing to supply £1 million of the £1.6 million needed on Merseyside, but local authorities had offered only £100,000 for the arts so far, from one council.

In Islington, the borough has offered to support only four local groups, at a cost of £130,000, against the Arts Council's £275,000, leaving a gap of between £300,000 and £400,000. The Almeida, which says it needs £250,000 a year, has been offered nothing by the local authority.

Talks were continuing with Merseyside and Islington in the hope of increasing the sums available.

The Arts Council has written to all its clients affected by abolition, saying that it will guarantee not to cut their grants this year.

Singer to pay costs of action

Elton John, the rock singer, agreed yesterday to pay the legal costs of the late Dick James, his adversary in last year's multimillion-pound High Court royalties case.

Mr James died two months after a judge ruled that his organization, Dick James Music, had deliberately underpaid royalties to Mr John and his partner, Bernie Taupin.

A further High Court hearing began yesterday to consider exactly how much is due to the pair, and how legal and other costs should be met.

The hearing is expected to take several days.

Colour complaint by juror

The trial of a man accused of the murder of seven-year-old Leonie Darnley was delayed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after a black woman juror complained about the words "coloured" and "negroid" to describe the dead girl.

Mr Justice Pain said he had received a note from the juror, one of them-black, and four men, complaining.

The juror wanted the word "coloured" changed to "black" and the word "negroid" used to describe her hair altered to "Afro-Caribbean".

The judge said there was no objection to the child being called black because that was correct.

And he was told by Miss Ann Goddard, QC, for the prosecution, that it was "entirely acceptable" for the girl's hair to be described as Afro-Caribbean.

The court heard earlier that detectives discovered a ginger hair tangled in Leonie's and three similar hairs were found on a blanket near her body.

Patrick Reilly, a 24-year-old labourer, of Anson Road, Tuffnell Park, north London, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Leonie in July 1984.

Miss Goddard claimed that the ginger body hairs found with the dead girl were microscopically similar to hairs taken from Mr Reilly. She said that fibres from his jacket were also similar to fibres

Satanists tell of bugged house

Derry Mainwaring Knight, the self-confessed satanist, told the committed Christians who had given him £200,000: "I don't have horns sticking out of my head", a court was told yesterday.

He wrote a letter to all the donors after he had been arrested and questioned by the police but released without being charged.

Mr Knight said the satanists had told him the police had bugged his house in Dormans Land, Surrey. But he told them triumphantly that he had known the police's move, means for weeks.

"Satanists live and work in nearly every trade and profession", he said.

The trial continues.

Satanists tell of bugged house

He said he had accepted Jesus Christ as his saviour in 1984 "and I meant it". He and his mistress, Angela Murdoch, prayed and read the Bible.

The letter was read out by Mr Michael Corkery, QC, for the prosecution, at Maidstone Crown Court where Mr Knight, aged 46, denies 19 charges of obtaining £203,850 by deception. He claims that he needed the money to buy satanic insignia to free himself from the devil.

The letter was received by Mr Gordoo Scott, of South Warborough, Hampshire, an adviser to a religious trust that provided Mr Knight with thousands of pounds.

The trial continues today.

Narrow miss for Princess

Princess Anne had a narrow miss yesterday when a ceiling collapsed only eight feet from where she was eating. The Princess was with other diners at a buffet lunch at the Royal Bath and West showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Lord Margdale, a former Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, who was directly underneath, escaped unhurt. The meal went ahead after the danger area was cleared.

UN convention to unite drugs fight

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The seizure of drug traffickers' assets and easier extradition arrangements are to be included in a draft United Nations convention, to be drawn up by August 15.

The convention is regarded as the most significant indication yet that countries are prepared to co-operate in the fight against drugs worldwide.

The move was welcomed yesterday by Mr David Mellor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office and chairman of the interdepartmental group on the misuse of drugs.

He said that Britain was already taking action of the type suggested for inclusion in the convention. The Drug Trafficking Offences Bill would provide for the confiscation of the assets of convicted drug traffickers and would allow the negotiation of bilateral agreements so that confiscation orders could be enforced overseas.

The convention will include measures to improve co-operation between national law enforcement agencies. One aim will be the development of techniques whereby entire drugs rings can be caught.

Another object is to improve international judicial co-operation, particularly on evidence requirements.

The development of the fight against drugs will be the main item at a world conference of ministers being called by the UN Secretary General next year.

Army sex jail terms reduced

Two paratroopers given terms of imprisonment with four others for indecency against a woman soldier, who had accused them of gang rape, won big cuts in their sentences in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Lord Justice Watkins said the victim was "dissolute and sexually depraved".

The most serious sentence that should have been imposed... on the six soldiers, formerly based at Bulford, Wiltshire, who received jail sentences of from six months to 18 months for indecent assault, was six months.

Private Michael Thoroughgood, aged 23, jailed for 18 months by Winchester Crown Court in December 17, had his jail term cut to six months. A six-month sentence imposed upon Lance-Corporal Martin Bannister, aged 23, was halved to three months.

Their four imprisoned colleagues in the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who were not before the court yesterday, will be told the court's decision and that they should lodge notice of appeal.

All eight had been acquitted of raping the victim, a private in the Women's Royal Army Corps, based at Larkhill, Wiltshire, and two other paratroopers had been fined for indecent assault.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Gantard and Mr Justice Ognall, said the jury would have none of the victim's allegations of rape, and the actual indecency alleged only minutes.

The soldiers, the judge said, were fine men and good soldiers who had thrown away their careers for activity, albeit disingenuous, that lasted for only minutes.

Letters, page 17

Jail for raider who caused victim's death

A burglar who specialized in raiding pensioners' homes was jailed for seven years yesterday for causing the death of a victim.

A jury at the Central Criminal Court found John O'Shea, aged 30, guilty of the manslaughter of Mr Joseph Romain, aged 79, a retired car center, of Hambury Street, Whitechapel, east London.

As O'Shea battered down the front door of his home, Mr Romain tried to escape using bed sheets as a rope, but fell, suffering injuries which led to his death.

O'Shea, of Manchester Road, List of Dogs, when told of Mr Romain's escape, said: "He must have been crazy. I wouldn't have hurt him."

Compensation for teacher's poor love life

A teacher whose sex life was affected by an elbow injury after she fell off a chair while putting children's paintings on a classroom wall, was awarded £26,198 damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

Mrs Myra Ridgeway-Brown, aged 53, of Wiltshire Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, had said that the pain she experienced "had reduced considerably her sexual enjoyment". Deputy Judge Donald Keating, QC, said.

Mrs Ridgeway-Brown was a teacher at Wilfridings Infants' School, Netherton, Bracknell, when the accident happened six years ago. She had to retire from teaching in 1983 on medical grounds.

BL loses monopoly claim on parts

BL has lost its claim to a monopoly, under the copyright laws, on the manufacture of replacement spare parts for its cars.

The Law Lords unanimously allowed an appeal yesterday by Armstrong Patents, which makes replacement exhausts for the BL Marina, against an injunction banning infringement of copyright.

The decision is expected to have far-reaching consequences for all manufacturers whose products frequently require replacement parts.

BL has been seeking to protect the share of the multi-million pound vehicle spares market held by its Unipart division.

But the "exploitation of copyright law" for purposes for which it was not intended had "gone far enough", Lord Templeman said.

"I see no reason to confer on a manufacturer the right, in effect, to dictate the terms on which an article sold by him is to be kept in repair."

Cars sold by BL could be kept in repair only by replacing the exhaust which was not patented. "BL are not entitled to assert copyright in their exhaust pipe drawing to defeat the right of the purchaser to repair his car," he said.

Lord Griffiths, Lord Scarman, Lord Edmund Davies and Lord Bridge of Harwich agreed in allowing the appeal.

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40-46	2,411	1,121	1,863	4,625	2,111	
47-53	2,509	1,109	1,879	4,577	2,089	
54-60	2,681	1,094	1,960	4,515	2,061	
61-67	2,834	1,080	1,942	4,456	1,912	
68-74	2,972	1,068	1,928	4,408	1,870	
75-81	3,197	1,049	1,834	4,328	1,822	
82-88	3,507	1,048	1,834	4,328	1,822	

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26-32	5,899	2,915	5,623	12,027	5,899	
33-39	6,276	2,908	5,614	11,998	5,876	
40-46	6,645	2,891	5,594	11,920	5,845	
47-53	7,008	2,861	5,590	11,805	5,808	
54-60	7,359	2,824	5,511	11,654	5,766	
61-67	7,700	2,780	5,465	11,503	5,695	
68-74	8,038	2,760	5,431	11,389	5,615	
75-81	8,367	2,712	5,371	11,190	5,527	
82-88	8,687	2,712	5,371	11,190	5,527	

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3. Answer "YES" or "NO" to each question below:

If you are under 60 and can truthfully answer "NO" to the 4 questions, you are guaranteed to be accepted with no further questions or medical examination. If you answer "YES" to any question, please attach details. You may still be accepted.

(a) Have you any reason to believe you are not in good health? YES NO

(b) Are you receiving, or have you received within the last twelve months, any medical treatment? YES NO

(c) Do you participate in any hazardous occupation or activity (such as private aviation or deep-sea diving)? YES NO

(d) Has a proposal on your life been declined, postponed, or accepted on special terms by any life insurance company? YES NO

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Leaders clash on future of BL companies

LEYLAND

An accusation that Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, wanted British Leyland to be a permanent pensioner on the pockets of his constituents was made by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, during Commons questions. And she added: We do not.

After Mr Kinnock had complained that the Prime Minister was not serious about competitive tendering for BL, Mrs Thatcher told him that if he had such faith that others wanted to bid, many many pension funds with enormous assets belonging to the trades unions could buy into the company.

The argument began when Mr Kinnock recalled that yesterday the Prime Minister said she liked an upsurge of patriotism but accompanied by action.

Is her idea of action or patriotism the selling off assets built up by the contributions of the British people? They have put up. Does she really think they ought to shut up?

Mrs Thatcher replied that by Tuesday there would be some indication of the numbers of people who wished to go ahead with bids and of the amounts.

One cannot say any more (she said) until all these bids are in and then thoroughly discussed and considered.

Mr Kinnock: Next Tuesday is the deadline. Does that turn all her claims yesterday, and those of all previous days, that there might be a consortia of bids built up in an offer for

which there was no prospect and for which there is a deadline? Does that not make all her claims absolute nonsense and show that she was never serious about competitive tendering and bidding?

Mrs Thatcher: No, he is talking nonsense. Those interested in making a genuine bid - and the trades unions could have done the same thing - would have got the same information from the Department of Trade and Industry or through British Leyland.

Mr Kinnock: Does she not know that the total combined assets of British trades unions are less than £500 million and the prospects of putting together bids for purchase are nonsense.

When the British people have paid for a high tech company and many companies are turning into profit, why does she want to fling it off to foreigners? It was then that Mrs Thatcher spoke of the pension funds, with enormous assets.



Kinnock: Why fling it off to foreigners?

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C) said many occupational schemes were moving to an early and common retirement age of 62½.

Mr Clarke: We believed before the judgment that we were complying with this directive which was passed which they thought complied with it. On public sector practices, the position is that employment policies of this kind and the question whether employees will be required to retire

Law on retirement age may have to be changed

COURT RULING

In the light of yesterday's judgment of the European Court of Justice, in the Marshall case the Government will consider whether any amendments should be made to its Sex Discrimination Act to clarify the law and comply with a directive accepted by the United Kingdom in 1976. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General, said in the Commons.

I should make it clear (he added) that the directive and the judgment have no application to the determination of the qualifying age for state retirement pension purposes as this is expressly exempted by another European directive.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that since the ruling applied only to the public sector would the minister make whatever changes he had in mind equally applicable to the private sector. Will he also make it clear (he went on) that it applies to those public sector industries at present being privatized with legislation before the House today so that none of those workers are discriminated against?

The ruling would provide an opportunity to harmonize public sector practices. This was a time for radical reassessment of the common pension age itself, as recommended by the Commons social services committee, as a contribution to reducing mass unemployment which once again had reached record levels. The House would welcome action in this area in preference to fiddling unemployment figures which the Government spent so much time doing.

Mr Clarke: We believed before the judgment that we were complying with this directive which was passed which they thought complied with it. On public sector practices, the position is that employment policies of this kind and the question whether employees will be required to retire

remains a matter for individual employers themselves. Not all public sector employers, not all health authorities, have the same practices.

The ruling made it clear that any policy an employer had should not discriminate between men and women. The requirement to retire at a certain age should be the same for both sexes.

Sir Edward Gardner (Fylde, C): More and more people in this country are becoming fed up by having critical domestic problems which affect a vast number of people and touch the pockets of every taxpayer decided in the European Court. (Conservative cheer) Has not the time come when the European Convention on Human Rights should be incorporated in domestic law so those cases can be decided by British judges in British courts? Mr Clarke said he knew these feelings existed but this was the European court of justice not the European court of human rights.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L) said the judgment came as no surprise to those who paid attention to the British Equal Opportunities Commission. He asked the Government to help the 1.7 million women workers who were not entitled to a pension at 60 because of the age of their husbands. Mr Clarke said retirement policy had been considered by the

Mr Clarke said he rather welcomed this judgment in some ways and he thought feelings about an arbitrary age for retirement in Britain was growing. There was no state retirement age in Britain; it was decided between employers and employees. There was a qualifying age for entitlement to a state pension.

Mrs Harriet Harman (Peckham, Lab) asked for action to be taken to make sure this decision was understood by those responsible for retirement in the public sector at a local level.

Mr Clarke said he expected most public sector employers to be reviewing their policies.

William Clarke (Croydon South, C) asked what was the cost of a common retirement age of 60 or the saving from a common retirement age of 65.

Mr Clarke replied that those who believed the problems could simply be solved by a common retirement age of 60 ignored the horrendous costs involved.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C): Can Mr Clarke tell me how this judgment is likely to affect one of my constituents who in 1972 at the age of 46 claimed to have changed from being a man to a woman? (Prolonged laughter)

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): This is an important, technical point. Mr Clarke said this would be a decision for the Secretary of State for Social Services.



Clarke: A matter for individual employers

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on business sponsorship of arts.

Pledge that yard will stay British

VICKERS

There were calls for a statement to be made to both Houses of Parliament after Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said during question time in the House of Lords that he could give an assurance that the Vickers shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness would not fall into foreign hands.

After he had told Lord Carver (Ind) he could give this assurance, a number of peers asked how he could give this guarantee when bids were still being submitted.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, Leader of the Opposition peers asked: Would he clarify that? Is he saying clearly that there will be no purchasers other than British purchasers?

Lord Lucas of Chilworth: I did not say that and that was not the question addressed to me. I gave an assurance the yard would not fall into foreign hands.

Lord Diamond (SDP): By what method can he control that assurance? Does he mean there will be no foreign shareholders, or only a number below a certain percentage?

Lord Lucas of Chilworth: Since the yard is one of the defence contractors and there are implications for defence issues and national security, the Government, through the Ministry of Defence, has assured itself that the yard will not fall into foreign ownership.

When the bids are assessed in the light of skill, finance and commercial attributes of the bidder, some may be disregarded because that criterion will not be met.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab): We cannot leave it at that. This is a matter which is in the bidding stage. He really does not know exactly how the Government is going to maintain British interest in the matter so why does he not say so?

Lord Lucas of Chilworth: I do know and I have given an assurance that the point will be taken regard of.

Lord Cledwyn: In view of the considerable uncertainty on the issue, will he ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr Paul Channon) to make a statement in the House of Commons which can be repeated here so that we may clarify this matter?

Britain to press EEC on sex discrimination

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government was unhappy at the effect removal of sex discrimination legislation would have for small businesses and would be pressing the European Commission to rethink the provision. Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, said when he successfully moved the second reading in the House of Lords of the Sex Discrimination Bill.

Removal of the exemption for small firms had been hard for the Government to accept, he said, because it had been designed to free such businesses

from the burdens of inappropriate restrictions. That did not mean the Government accepted sex discrimination as desirable. It should be possible to recruit whoever was best for a post, irrespective of sex.

But he could not believe that the law with all its complexities designed to meet the situation of larger employers offered the best way of securing sex equality in small companies.

We accept the requirement as good members of the Community (he said) but we would wish the Community to consider the serious conflict between this and the other burdens resulting from Community directives.

Times ban smacks of censorship

THE PRESS

The banning of newspapers was both small-minded and smacked of censorship, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons when she announced the banning of the Times from public libraries and educational establishments in Derby which was brought to her attention.

Mr Peter Ross (Erewash, C) said the Times had been banned by Derbyshire County Council because of the dispute at Wapping. This was the latest example of the unacceptable face of socialism.

Miss Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab): In view of the Government's insistence that the miners should hold a ballot during their recent industrial action, now that the Fleet Street print workers have held a ballot and voted seven to one in favour of industrial action, why is the Government not supporting them?

Mrs Thatcher said it was a year since the miners' strike ended, a strike supported through bitter cold weather. It was for the people Miss Maynard had referred to - the print workers - to make their own choice in a ballot and take the reasonable consequences that flowed from the choice they had freely made.

Timetable for all Bills opposed

PROCEDURE

Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, said he could not commend the automatic timetabling of Government Bills, recommended by the procedure committee, which he said was unwise and would be rather one-sided trade-off to the advantage of the Government and its supporters.

He was speaking during a debate on Commons procedure, including timetabling, shorter speeches and applications for emergency debates. An all-party amendment to the Government's motion to take note of the committee's recommendations, approved in principle the holding of an experimental implementation, during the next session of Parliament, of the recommendations on the timetabling of Government bills and on the time of rising of standing committees (a limit of 10 pm).

Mr Biffen said the committee's major recommendation, on timetabling, was a radical proposal and had provoked considerable response. It had recommended that a legislative business committee should decide whether a Bill was likely to take more than 25 hours in committee and would propose a timetable in standing committee.

He shared the judgement of the committee that legislation should be as fully and carefully considered as possible. The committee also believed that extensive and automatic timetabling would benefit Government backbenchers. Westminster's silent and unused

Next week

The main items of business next week will be:

Monday: Debates on Welsh Affairs and EEC social fund.

Tuesday: Bill on the Bill of Rights (Scotland) Bill, Environment Bill, and the second reading of the Bill on the Environment.

Wednesday: Debates on EEC social fund and annual report of the Environment Commission.

Thursday: Opposition motion on the Environment Bill, and the second reading of the Bill on the Environment.

Friday: Private members' motions.

Monday: Order of Business, and the second reading of the Bill on the Environment.

Tuesday: Motion on law relating to the structure of universities and the Bill on the Environment.

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King warning to unionists on proposed strike

ULSTER

The threat to the union between Northern Ireland and Great Britain came from those who most claimed to espouse it by embarking on a course in direct collision with the views of this sovereign and imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when questioned in the Commons on the threatened strike in the Province on Monday.

He was replying to Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who said: There is no way that the north can be put into the south of Ireland against the wishes of the majority. It is equally true that the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland can be broken by the unionists and there is a great danger this might happen in the months ahead.

Mr King said it was most unsatisfactory that those who called for support of the security forces then put a very real additional strain on them. I very much hope (he added) that all those who have chosen and announced embarking on this policy will, even at this late hour, think again. It will be in the interests of nobody in the Province.

The only certain outcome of Monday's strike will be to damage jobs in the Province which desperately needs jobs, he added.

It was in the House of Commons that matters such as the future of Northern Ireland should be discussed and argued. A policy of abstention and unwillingness even to debate and argue was not a policy of strength but one of weakness and disaster.

Sir John Farr (Harborough, C) asked earlier for an assurance that the security forces were fully prepared for the strike on Monday and ready to cope with any eventuality. Has the time come (he went on) to at least place the Anglo-Irish agreement in cold storage until such time as a round table conference takes place?

Mr King: I very much regret any suggestion that there should be a strike on Monday. The RUC will be anxious to take every necessary step for the protection of law and order to enable law-abiding citizens to go about their business. That is a matter for them. In making a statement about law and order I very much regret that they should be distracted from their important work of fighting against terrorism to have to cope with the problems Monday may bring.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C): Will he confirm that in the months before the Anglo-Irish agreement the number of soldiers was reduced and that since the agreement the number has increased? Could he specify how many more soldiers will need to be committed to Northern Ireland as a result of the settlement?

Mr King: The analogy he seeks to draw is false. The reason for the increase in forces numbers is because of increased terrorism, which bears out clearly my statement that this agreement threatens only the terrorists. They recognize that, and are determined to take extra measures in every way they can to seek to defeat it. They have launched a series of nasty attacks for the destruction of police stations and we have taken the necessary measures for their restoration, which has required extra forces.

I hope everyone here will be determined to stand with us and say that if those forces are required for the protection of law-abiding citizens and the defeat of terrorism they will be provided.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said the two main Unionist leaders had virtually abdicated any political responsibility and that was bound to create difficulties next Monday. The likelihood was that the hardy would take over. Would Mr King ensure the widest mobilization of

security forces and ensure that people who wanted to go to work could do so without barricades and thugs preventing them as happened before?

Mr King said the threatened strike was likely only to divert the Royal Ulster Constabulary from their main task of policing the Province. It was up to the police to make decisions in the circumstances likely next Monday.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said the agreement was applied described in *The Times* today as a constitutional monstrosity. The consequences were predictable and had been predicted from the Conservative backbenches. It was desirable that next Monday nothing should be said or done or not done that would endanger the security of jobs particularly at Harland and Wolff.

Later, during Prime Minister's questions, Mrs Thatcher said: I wish to make it clear that should the strike go ahead on Monday the action will not deflect the Government from its determination to implement the Anglo-Irish agreement which has the support of the overwhelming majority of both Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom.

She was replying to Mr David Wintick (Walsley North, Lab) who asked her to reaffirm that the agreement would stand, regardless of what happened on Monday and that no amount of violence, intimidation or paramilitary force would change the mind of the large majority of British people who were in favour of the agreement. If the power-sharing agreement had not been destroyed 12 months ago by the Unionists, he said, there would have been no need for this agreement.

Mr Jessamy Hayes (Harlow, C): Monday's madness is not going to do anything to help cross-border security. Will he make it clear to those people who are seeking to set themselves up as the Afrikaners of Ulster that he and this House are not going to be bullied into suspending or scrapping the Anglo-Irish agreement?

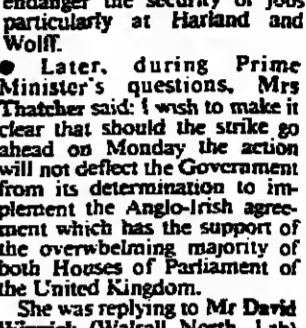
Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP): There are unionists in Northern Ireland who are not in favour of the so-called strike, who are in favour of the Anglo-Irish agreement and who are not prepared to follow in the footsteps of the abominable no men on Monday.

Will he confirm there is a very sizeable section of the population in Northern Ireland who are not Unionists and who are

very firmly in favour of the proposals in the Anglo-Irish agreement?

Mr King: Certainly it is true there is significant support, certainly in the authority community, for the Anglo-Irish agreement. There are many more - an increasing number - of responsible Unionists who are now beginning to realize some of the benefits that can flow, not least in the movement of voters from the party that advocates violence to the constitutional nationalist approach. That is something of long-lasting benefit to everybody in the Province.

Later, Dr Rhodes Boyson, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said there was no doubt that if there was a widespread strike on Monday in Northern Ireland it would have serious industrial repercussions.



King: Strike will only damage jobs

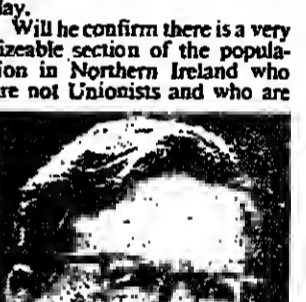
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King: Strike will only damage jobs

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Ulster strike
King warning
unionists on
proposed strike

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Sir Geoffrey Howe is the best political map reader in the Government. We sometimes forget this because he is not the most inspiring conference orator, nor someone for whom we would always wish to switch channels on television. But he usually sees the terrain ahead more clearly than his colleagues.

This makes his occasional analyses of the political scene especially interesting. The speech which he delivered to the Conservative Association at the London School of Economics on Wednesday could not have come at a better time because this is a period of particular anxiety and confusion among Conservatives. Ought they to be preparing for the end of the Thatcher era? Should they be aiming to change their style but keep their leader? Or should they simply concentrate on not being blown off course by a few unfavourable gusts of wind?

The fundamental question for them is how much of the Thatcherite revolution has become, or could be made, part of the accepted thinking of this country. The trade union legislation certainly has. So has the sale of council houses and, to a lesser extent, the privatization of industry. We are grateful for the decline in inflation when we bother to think about it. But perhaps the most important change has been the least tangible; a much greater sense of economic realism in public discussion.

Britain may still not be an economically efficient country, but at least it is now much easier to make the case for competitive efficiency. All this amounts to no more than limited progress towards Mrs Thatcher's goals. There are, however, a good many Conservatives today who believe that it is time to pause, either to consolidate or to modify the substance of her policies.

Sir Geoffrey is not one of them. His speech was not one of those coded signals of dissent. He wants to press ahead with the strategy which he associates not just with Mrs Thatcher, but also with Mr Heath's government and with the first Bow Group generation, of which he was a leading member.

Thatcher changes raise questions

Yet in drawing attention to the continuity of Mrs Thatcher's ideas within the Conservative Party, Sir Geoffrey was illustrating a critical distinction between the two of them; their capacity to speak differently about doing the same thing.

In her actions, Mrs Thatcher has been performing the traditional Tory function of correcting the balance. The pedulum having swung too far in the direction of the previously fashionable orthodoxy of collectivism, she has been striving valiantly to pull it back a bit more towards the middle. But she speaks as if she is building a new Jerusalem. In order to do something realistic she often seems to find it necessary to sound unrealistic.

Perhaps it has been necessary. There are some things that cannot be accomplished by being still less by appearing reasonable. But perhaps it is also that she is naturally pugnacious. She gives the impression of enjoying a fight, almost as if she sometimes regrets finding herself with someone who agrees with her, because that denies her one of the pleasures of life.

Sir Geoffrey, on the other hand, seems to sense the current public taste for "a moderate, more consensual form of Conservatism". He scorns the idea that this preference could be met by the Alliance. "Moderation without conviction", he believes, "is not enough". That is a telling way of pointing to the public uncertainty as to what the Alliance stands for, as distinct from what it is against.

But can the Conservatives make the country feel more comfortable with the present strategy? I do not believe that the Conservative Party wants a sharp change of direction and I am not persuaded that public opinion requires it. But there is a limit to how much zeal this country is prepared to tolerate in its governors. The critical test for the Government now is whether it can make the same broad approach seem not so much daring, as natural.

Inquiry says riots have made Handsworth community worse off

By Craig Seton

Rioters in the Birmingham inner city area of Handsworth last September achieved nothing for themselves or their community, according to an independent inquiry. Their rampage, which included looting and burning shops, had driven away desperately needed jobs and widened the existing gulf of hostility.

Mr Julius Silverman, the former Birmingham MP who conducted the inquiry for

the city council, said in his report published yesterday: "Everyone is now worse off". Two Asian brothers died in their petrol-bombed post office in Lozells Road, the scene of the worst rioting on the night of September 9, and 79 police officers, eight firemen and 35 others were injured. Dozens of shops were destroyed or looted and damage was estimated at £16 million. Traders and manufacturers, Mr Silverman's report said,

had found that insurance for their properties and bank loans to promote business and jobs were even more difficult to get.

He disagreed with the view of Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, that the riots were orchestrated by drug "barons".

He said racial discrimination and the feeling of being discriminated against were part of the alienation felt by ethnic communities and were essential elements in the cause of the riots.

The causes of the riots were complex. But mass unemployment was a central theme from which many of the problems flowed.

The important matter for the future was the evidence of social conditions, the mass of hostility, frustration and potential violence.

Referring to the chief constable's view that plastic bullets would have been effective and justified on the night of the riot, Mr Silverman said he could not see at what stage they could have been profitably used.

City of Birmingham Independent Inquiry into the Handsworth Disturbances, September 1985.

The Silverman recommendations

- More police should be employed in the West Midlands area, increasing the force's present establishment of 6,684 officers.
- Policemen should be riot-trained in small groups so that they can be quickly mobilized and able to protect themselves in riots.
- New police training schemes should be started and a new police station built in Thornhill Road, in Handsworth.
- More funds needed for young single-person flats because of the many homeless youths in the area.
- More say for people in the running of their community and the expansion of community programmes in Handsworth.
- At least five more Afro-Caribbean teachers needed in Handsworth.
- More playgroups wanted for young children, so they can learn English before they go to school.
- More youth clubs and teenagers' leisure facilities.
- More money to finance jobs in the area by pumping cash into the repair of buildings and services.
- The Government should put more money into the inner city partnership scheme in Handsworth and a government grant should be introduced for inner city areas with special unemployment problems.



It was almost like an Indian summer for Mr Jim Durrant, nursery manager, as he worked yesterday in the heated greenhouse at the McBeans orchid nursery in Cooksbridge, Sussex, preparing orders for Mothering Sunday on March 9. Countries that he exports orchids to include India and Japan, where they grow naturally (Photograph: John Voos).

Pesticide danger increases for young

By Richard Evans Lobby Reporter

More young children are eating dangerous pesticides left around homes, the Commons agriculture select committee was told yesterday.

But in spite of the trend, Britain is yet to follow the example set by some countries which insist on home and garden pesticides being sold in child-resistant packages.

The vulnerability of young children is confirmed by Department of Health and Social Security estimates for hospital discharges after treatment for pesticide poisoning.

They show that between 1970 and 1982, of the 10,990 patients 6,750 were children under four years old.

The Ministry of Agriculture told MPs that a random survey had shown that, of 93 people treated in 20 hospitals, the vast majority of the casualties were aged five years or under and were reported to have consumed pesticides.

MPs heard that rat-killing products, frequently laid to reach easy for children to reach, were a particular "favourite".

"It is reasonable to conclude that acute poisonings from pesticides are at relatively low levels and stable."

IBM leads computer business

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

Five manufacturers are supplying nearly three quarters of the microcomputers sold to British business, with IBM dominant.

The details are outlined in the annual review of the industry by Romtec, the business analysts. A total of 224,000 business microcomputers were sold in Britain last year, according to the review, representing a growth of 24 per cent on the previous year. However, the competitiveness of the market has meant that some dealers and suppliers have dropped out.

In 1984, there were eight manufacturers supplying 70 per cent of the microcomputers. A year later 74 per cent were supplied by five. The growth in the United Kingdom last year brought the total value of sales to £630 million but, according to the study, business was reluctant to purchase computers in April, principally because of the boom in purchases before the end of the financial year in March.

But fierce price cutting by IBM ensured that the company's market share nearly doubled, while Olivetti became the leading supplier of IBM-compatible microcomputers.

	1984	1985
IBM	25	41
Apricot	15	15
Apple	9	7
Epson	6	(a)
Commodore	4	(a)
Compaq	4	4
Olivetti	4	7
Sanyo	3	(a)
Others	30	26

(a): no figure given.

Company wins libel damages

House of Sethia, the holding company of the Sethia commodity, insurance and shipping group, accepted "substantial" libel damages at the High Court in London yesterday over an allegation in the *Financial Weekly* that it was involved in the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

Mr Patrick Moloney, for Sethia, said the magazine's editor, Mr Tom Lloyd, its City Editor, Mr Mihir Bose, and its publisher, British Printing and Communications Corporation, had accepted that the report was untrue.

Subpoena bar

Alex Herbage, aged 55, an international financier, wanted in America on \$46 million fraud charges, was refused permission yesterday by the High Court to subpoena nine witnesses when he seeks a writ of habeas corpus next week. He is in Pentonville Prison, London, awaiting extradition.

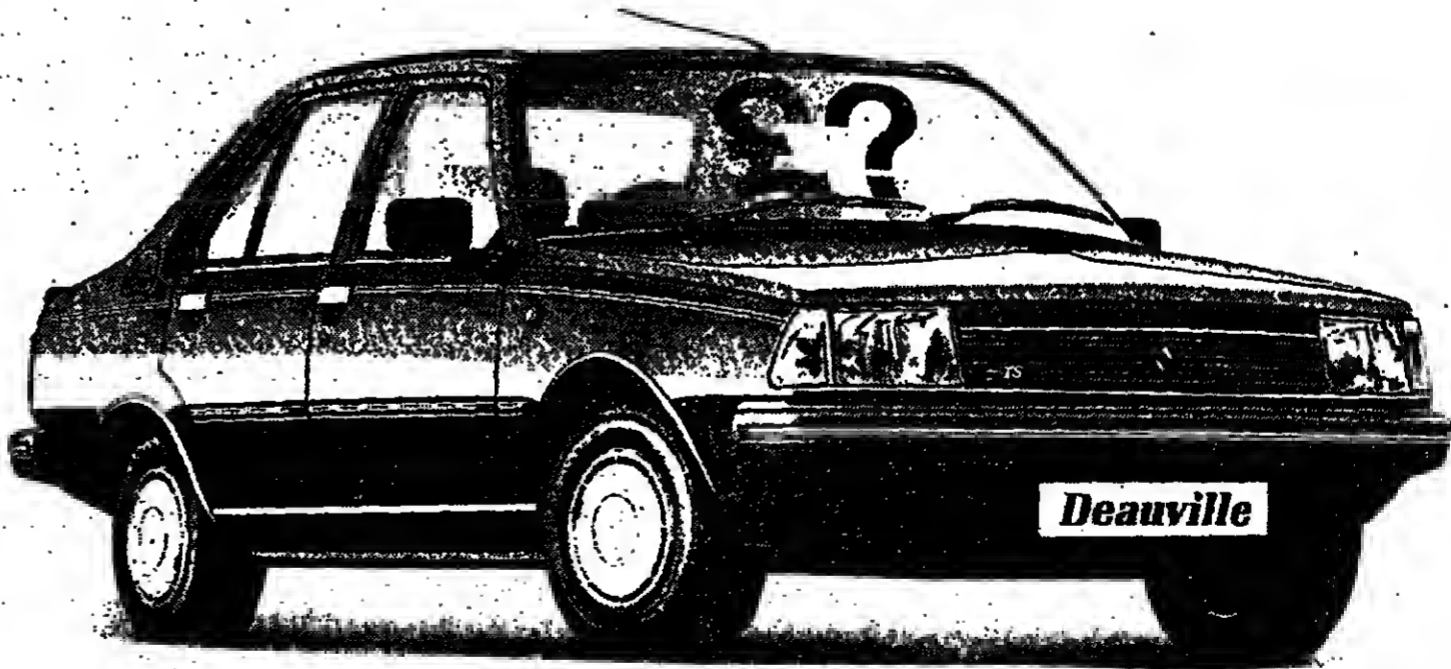
Constable find

An elderly Northumberland widow has been told that an oil painting, left to her by an uncle, is a Constable landscape, "Farm Labourers Flaying", which could be worth £60,000 at sale next month.

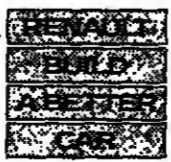
Mitchell's will

Leslie Mitchell, the first announcer on BBC Television, left estate valued at £31,145 net. The actor and voice of the Movietone newsreels died last November, aged 80.

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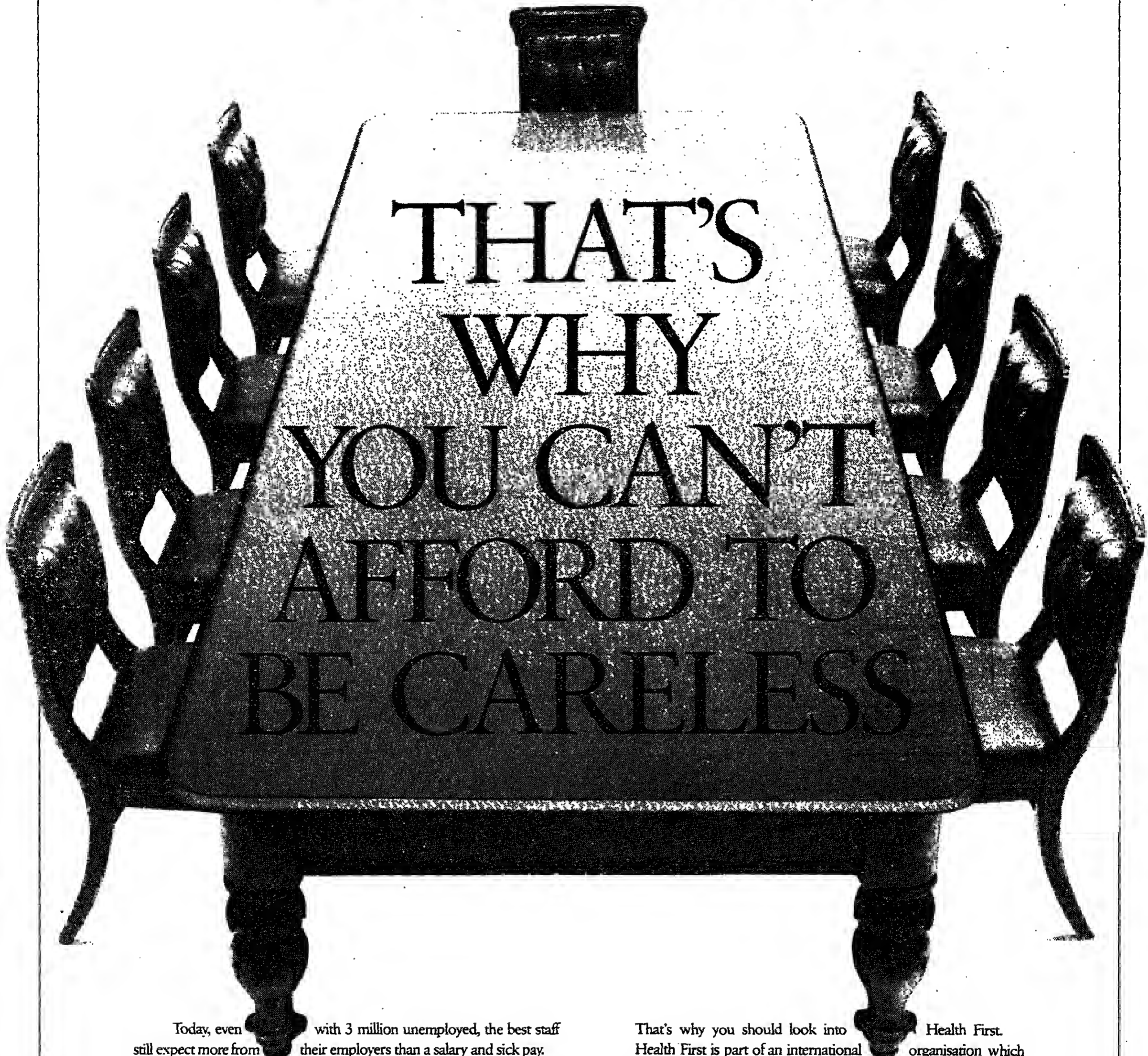
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Today, even with 3 million unemployed, the best staff still expect more from their employers than a salary and sick pay.

Today's employers are expected to provide private medical cover along with company cars and subsidised lunches. It's as though the concept of the caring society is moving more and more towards the Board Room. And that's probably not a bad thing.

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Pope plot prosecution asks for acquittal of three Bulgarians

The public prosecutor in the trial in Rome of eight men accused of conspiracy to murder the Pope called for the acquittal of all three Bulgarian defendants yesterday because of insufficient evidence.

From Peter Nichols, Rome the Browning pistol with which he shot the Pope. The second life sentence requested was for Musa Cerdati, head of an organization for Turkish immigrants in West Germany.

their acquittal because the case against them was incomplete, not because he thought they were innocent. The defence will now put its case, which might take another two weeks. The judges will then consider their verdicts.



An Iranian mullah wears a gas mask near the captured Iraqi town of Fao while it comes under assault from the Iraqis.

Another Israeli killed in Lebanon

Jerusalem — A 19-year-old Israeli corporal was killed in an ambush in South Lebanon on Wednesday evening and four of his patrol were wounded. The incident occurred at Jebel el Batin, about seven miles south east of Tyre, on the edge of what Israel calls its security zone (Ian Murray writes).

Pensioner flies to face Treblinka trial

From Ian Murray Jerusalem A special flight from New York is due to land at Ben-Gurion airport this afternoon carrying a pensioner accused of the mass murder of thousands of Jews at the Treblinka death camp in Poland during 1942 and 1943.

He is Mr John Demjanjuk, aged 66, a Ukrainian-born American resident since 1952, who is being extradited at Israel's request to stand trial for offences committed by a "gas chamber mechanic" at the camp whose horrifying behaviour earned the nickname Ivaoo the Terrible.

He is to fly handcuffed to a US marshal and the aircraft will be parked well away from the terminal building. Police will go on board, the American handcuffs will be taken off and Israeli ones locked on.

According to Dr Yitzhak Arad, director of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial to Jerusalem, there are no more than about 10 survivors of Treblinka in Israel who might be able to give evidence. Yad Vashem itself, however, has accumulated considerable documentary evidence about atrocities committed by Ivan the Terrible.

Five held as gold mine strike ends

The strike at Vaal Reefs, South Africa's and the world's second biggest gold mine, ended yesterday. The Anglo American Corporation, which owns the mine, estimated that the two-day stoppage had cost 6 million rand (£2 million) in lost production.

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg miners in connection with the killing at Vaal Reefs on February 18 of four senior black employees. Four of the nine have been released, and the other five, charged with public violence, were refused bail yesterday by a magistrate at Johannesburg, near Klerksdorp. The prosecutor said it was likely the men

would later be charged with murder. ● Treason charges: The Attorney-General of the Witwatersrand Division has announced here that a Dutch national, Mr Klaas De Jonge, and his former wife, Mrs Helene Passtoors, a Belgian, are to be prosecuted for treason and terrorism.

Kohl puts his case on Jews

From Frank Johnson Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, took an opportunity yesterday to put into proportion - as he saw it - any anti-semitism which may still exist in contemporary Germany.

Frau Hildegard Hamm-Brucher, aged 64, a backbench member of the Free Democrats, the liberal party which is part of Herr Kohl's centre-right coalition, had taken the unusual step - supported by Social Democrats and Greens - of sponsoring a Bundestag debate on "anti-semitic tendencies" in the Federal Republic.

Herr Hermann Fellner, aged 35, an MP from the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), the right-wing part of the coalition, apologized in Parliament last month for telling a newspaper that Jewish demands to the Flick company to compensate surviving wartime slave labourers gave the impression that Jews acted quickly "when money tinkles in Germans' tills".

Shortly afterwards, Graf Wilderich von Spee - a descendant of the imperial vice-admiral after whom the Second World War pocket battleship was named - had to resign as mayor of Korschbroich, a commuter town near Düsseldorf. He had said in a council finance debate that "a few rich Jews should be killed" to balance the town budget.

Yesterday Chancellor Kohl reproached those who had "forgotten or not understood the lessons of history". All German democrats since Adenauer had agreed about those lessons, he added. "One must however keep matters in proportion. It is going absolutely too far to speak of a burgeoning of anti-semitism."

Herr Kohl said he wanted to defend himself personally against the charge of self-righteousness. He described as "torn from context" the quotation often attributed to him, that in being very young during the Hitler period, he had had "the mercy of a late birth".

The Greens, including some of their speakers in the thinly-attended debate, have said that such remarks were an attempt by Germans to minimize the horrors.

Herr Kohl, aged 55, said that what he had meant was that his generation had no guilt for the mass murders, but should have a sense of responsibility to history.

Basques say no to violence

Madrid — Only 2 per cent of Basques now admit supporting the use of violence by Eia, the armed separatist organization, according to an opinion poll conducted by the Basque region government (Richard Wigg writes). In a similar poll five years ago 8 per cent of Basques admitted backing such violence.

Meanwhile, Spain's constitutional court has thrown out on a technicality Supreme Court jail sentences imposed on a group of Basque MPs in 1983 for insulting King Juan Carlos in February 1981.

Sahara deaths

Algiers (AFP) — The Polisario Liberation Front has killed 56 Moroccan soldiers and wounded 30 in two attacks to mark ten years of the self-proclaimed Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, it says.

Love decree

Peking (AFP) — A Shanghai student has been sentenced to death for the attempted stabbing to death of a girl who spurned his love, according to a local newspaper.

Guilty plea

Moorovia (AFP) — Former Major Antony Marquet, one of those accused of plotting the abortive coup on November 12 against President Doe of Liberia, pleaded guilty to treason.

Hidden heroin

Copenhagen (AFP) — Danish doctors are considering operating on a British heroin smuggler who swallowed contraceptive sheaths containing the drug, police said. He is suffering severe constipation.

Party charges

Dar es-Salaam (AFP) — Thirteen branch secretaries of Tanzania's ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party in northern Kilimanjaro have been dismissed on charges of corruption and embezzling party funds.

Boat tragedy

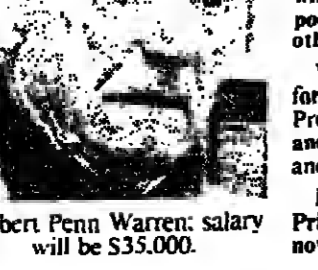
Jakarta (AP) — Rescuers found 17 bodies and 38 people were missing after a boat carrying about 110 passengers capsized off the remote Indonesian island of Flores.

Correction

The Holiday Inn company has no connection with hotels burnt during the Cairo mutiny.

Triple Pulitzer winner to be US poet laureate

Washington (AFP) — Robert Penn Warren, winner three times of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry and fiction, has been named the United States' first poet laureate.



Robert Penn Warren: salary will be \$35,000.

Warren, aged 80, will assume the ceremonial office on October 1 for a one-year term. The Librarian of Congress, Mr Daniel Boorstin, announced yesterday. He will receive a salary of \$35,000 (£23,300).

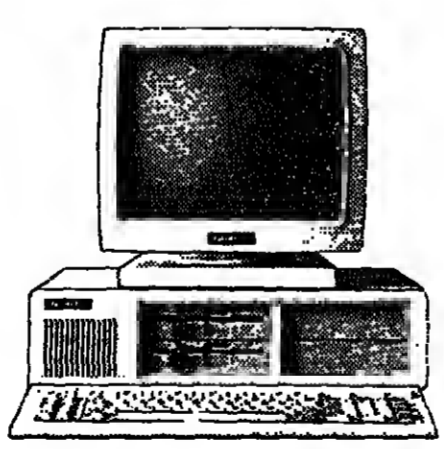
The post was established by Congress last year in an attempt to enhance the public recognition and prestige of American poets and their work. The new poet laureate will be available to write poetry for ceremonial and other occasions of celebration.

Warren won a Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1957, for his work Promises: Poems 1954-1956, and another in 1979 for Now and Then: Poems 1976-1978.

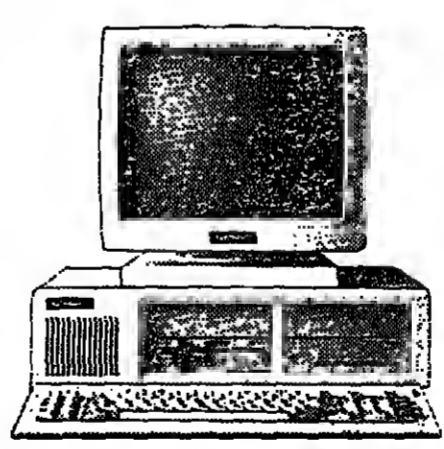
He received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1946 for his novel All the King's Men.

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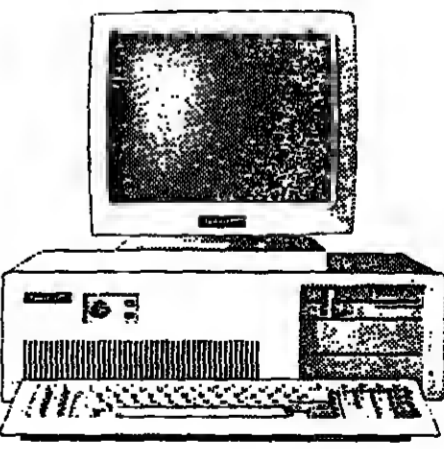
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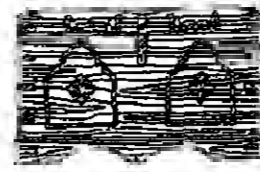
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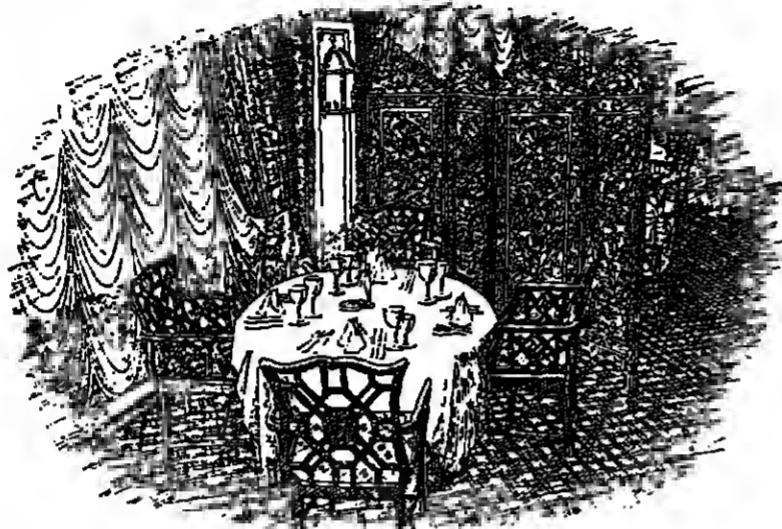
Please send me details of Tandon microcomputers. Name: _____ Company/Address: _____ Tel: _____ DEPT. 4 Tandon Computer (UK) Ltd., Unit 19, Hunt End, Dunlop Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 5NR Telephone: 0527 46800, Fax: 0527 743203.



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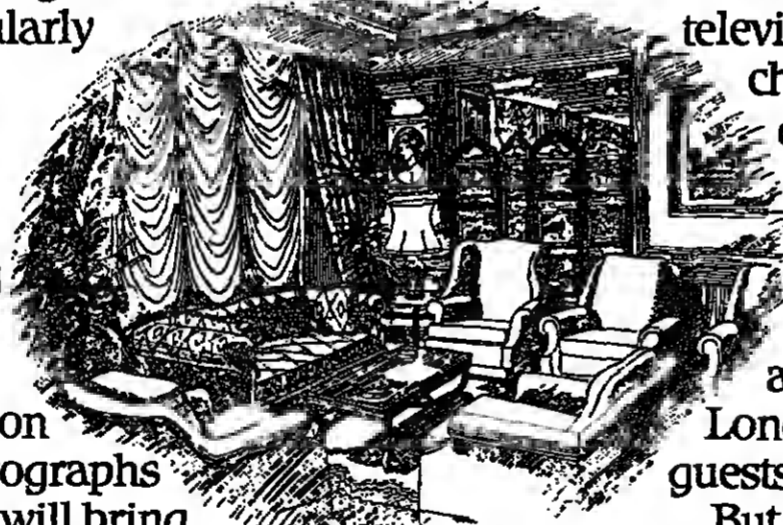
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Following the strains of a classical harp into the Broadlands Drawing Room (which echoes the Mountbatten family's English country home) you'll find gracious living is alive and well.

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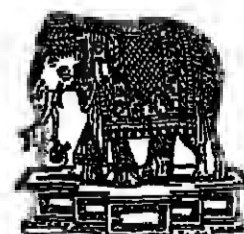
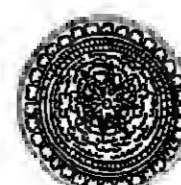
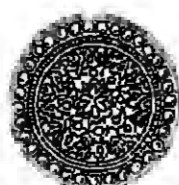
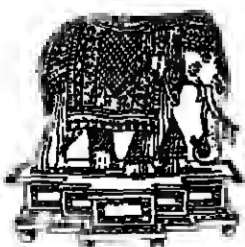
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Democrats prepare to sabotage Reagan's defence budget boost

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Congress is likely to voice strong resistance to President Reagan's nationwide appeal for a continuation of his defence build-up. Democrats were saying yesterday that there was no chance that Congress would agree to the 8 per cent increase of some \$31 billion at a time when the domestic programme was being heavily cut.

President Reagan, in an attempt to go over the heads of Congress, said in a television address on Wednesday that any cuts in the Defence Department spending would threaten US security and endanger any chance of improv-

ing relations with the Soviet Union. He said American strength was the most persuasive argument the US had to convince its adversaries to negotiate seriously and to cease bullying other nations. "Any slackening now would invite the very dangers America must avoid, and could fatally compromise our negotiating position," he said.

"Our adversaries the Soviets - we know from painful experience - respect only nations that negotiate from a position of strength." He added: "Just as we are sitting down at the bargaining table with the Soviet Union, let's not throw America's trump card away."

He called the plans to cut next year's Pentagon budget by up to \$50 billion "reckless, dangerous and wrong" and said this was "backsliding of the most irresponsible kind".

However, Mr Jim Wright, speaking for the Democrats immediately after Mr Reagan's tough speech, said that his proposals to double military spending and cut taxes at the same time would add to the federal deficit.

"We think the deficits themselves pose a danger to our national security. The

American people are willing to pay for the necessary level of defence. But they do not want to pay for more defence than we get."

Mr Reagan's speech marks the start of a new bitter battle over defence spending. The White House urged him to take his case directly to the nation after polls revealed for the first time declining public support for his defence build-up.

Mr Reagan insisted that arbitrary cuts brought "phony savings" and were not safe. There were still major imbalances between Soviet and US forces. In the past 15 years the Russians had invested \$500 billion more than US in defence and built nearly three times as many strategic missiles.

However, in a sign of the changing mood on Capitol Hill, the House of Representatives passed a resolution on Wednesday urging the President to resume negotiations with the Russians for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty and to seek ratification of two treaties already limiting such tests - the 1974 Threshold Test Ban and the 1976 Peaceful Nuclear Explosion Treaty, which have been signed by the US but not yet ratified by the Senate.



Mr Caspar Weinberger, US Defence Secretary, who faces a budget battle.

West reacts to Kremlin speech

Second thoughts on preconditions

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

After careful study of the Russian text of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's address to the Soviet Communist Party congress on Tuesday, Western officials are coming to the conclusion that the Soviet leader was not as dismissive of President Reagan's latest arms proposals as appeared at first sight.

In particular they believe that Mr Gorbachev was not laying down preconditions for holding a summit with Mr Reagan later this year by calling for "understandings" on medium-range missiles and ending nuclear tests.

A Soviet diplomat in London confirmed that these were not preconditions but emphasized that Mr Gorbachev saw no sense in holding empty talks with Mr Reagan.

The White House has said Mr Gorbachev's attempt to link a summit to progress in arms control talks "simply

won't work". The US is still pressing Moscow to agree on a summit date.

The view in Whitehall is that the Soviet Union is once again trying to divide Nato and to stir up anti-nuclear sentiment in west Europe as it did during the months preceding the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Europe during 1983.

There is concern about Mr Gorbachev's insistence - repeated in Tuesday's speech - that a deal on medium-range missiles in Europe must include a freeze on British and French nuclear forces and a scrapping of Britain's plans to buy Trident missiles from the US.

It is feared in London that there could be a revival of anti-nuclear sentiment if the question of British and French forces is seen as the main obstacle blocking an agreement on Euro-missiles.

Gorbachov objective a global security system

In his speech to the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party on Tuesday, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, outlined an "all-embracing system of international security" as a long-term objective of Soviet foreign policy. This is how he described it (English text supplied by the Soviet news agency Novosti):



International security

Military area: Renunciation by the nuclear powers of war - both nuclear and conventional - against each other or against third countries.

Prevention of an arms race in outer space, cessation of all nuclear weapons tests and the total destruction of such weapons, a ban on and the destruction of chemical weapons, and renunciation of the development of other means of mass annihilation.

A strictly controlled lowering of the levels of military capabilities of countries to limits of reasonable adequacy; disbandment of military alliances, and, as a stage towards this, renunciation of their enlargement and of the formation of new ones; balanced and commensurate reduction of military budgets.

Political area: Unconditional respect for the right of each people to choose the ways and forms of its development independently.

A just political settlement of international crises and regional conflicts. Elaboration of measures aimed at building confidence between states and the creation of effective guarantees against attack from without and of the inviolability of their frontiers.

Elaboration of methods of preventing international terrorism, including the safety of international land, air and sea communications.

Economic area: Exclusion of all forms of international discrimination; renunciation of any policy of economic blockades and sanctions if this is not directly envisaged in the recommendations of the world community.

Joint quest for a just settlement of the debt problem.

Establishment of a new world order guaranteeing equal economic security to all countries.

The pooling of efforts to explore and make peaceful use of outer space and to resolve global problems on which the destinies of civilization depend.

Humanitarian area: Co-operation in the dissemination of ideas on peace, disarmament and international security; greater flow of general objective information and intercourse between peoples for the purpose of learning about one another; reinforcement of mutual understanding and concord in relations between them.

Destruction of genocide, apartheid, advocacy of fascism and every other form of racial, national or religious exclusiveness, and also of discrimination against people on this basis.

Extension, while respecting each country's laws, of international co-operation in implementing political, social and personal rights.

Humane and positive decision of questions relating to the reuniting of families, marriage and the promotion of contacts between people and between organizations.

Strengthening of and a search for new forms of co-operation in culture, art, science, education and medicine.

Communist principles

These principles stem logically from the provisions of the Programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and are entirely in keeping with our concrete foreign policy initiatives. Guided by them, it would be possible to make peaceful coexistence the highest principle of state-to-state relations. In our view, these principles could become the point of departure and a guideline for a direct and systematic dialogue between world leaders both bilateral and multilateral.



Mr Robert Lund of rocket engineers Morton Thiokol answers the shuttle panel, which include astronaut Sally Ride (right).

Shuttle photographs back failed seals theory

Washington (UPI) - New pictures displayed yesterday to the presidential commission investigating the Challenger shuttle disaster added fresh evidence to the theory that seals in a booster rocket joint failed before the shuttle exploded.

The photographs, which seemed to surprise commissioners, showed more clearly than before a puff of black smoke from the right booster rocket at ignition, and an engineer said the smoke appeared to come from a rocket joint.

Officials from the company that built Challenger followed up the photographic testimony by revealing that they had

told Nasa that Challenger was unsafe to fly because of ice conditions on the gantry next to the shuttle.

The colour photographs were being displayed to the commission to show ice conditions on the shuttle at liftoff. One of the commissioners whispered that the smoke appeared to be coming "right at the field joint". In previous pictures, the origin of the smoke was not clear.

Cosmos comes down to earth

Debris from a runaway Soviet surveillance satellite crashed to earth yesterday but scientists differed on whether the pieces landed in a thinly-populated desert area of northern Australia or in Canada (our Foreign Staff writes).

West German experts said the 10-tonne Cosmos 1714

crashed in Australia's Northern Territory. British scientists said the debris was likely to have ended up in Canada, but the Canadian Defence Department said it fell in the South Pacific. "No one could say how big were the chunks that hit the Earth's surface."

Evidence in Flick trial may be flawed

Bonn (Reuters) - The star witness in West Germany's biggest political corruption trial caused a courtroom sensation yesterday when he said some names on his supposedly meticulous list of Flick company cash recipients could be wrong.

Herr Rudolf Diehl, former chief book-keeper of the Flick conglomerate, was testifying for the first time at the bribery trial of former economics ministers Count Otto von Lambsdorff and Herr Hans Friderichs.

He stunned the packed court when he said that he had sometimes written names of politicians next to Flick donations in a secret list without actually knowing they took the money.

The "Diehl list" is a key piece of evidence for charges that Count von Lambsdorff and Herr Friderichs accepted massive bribes for their Free Democratic Party from Flick in return for arranging a tax break for the private company.

According to Herr Diehl, the money came from a slush-fund called "the black strong box".

Prosecutors allege that it was paid out to politicians by former Flick manager, Herr Eberhard von Brauchitsch, who is also on trial.

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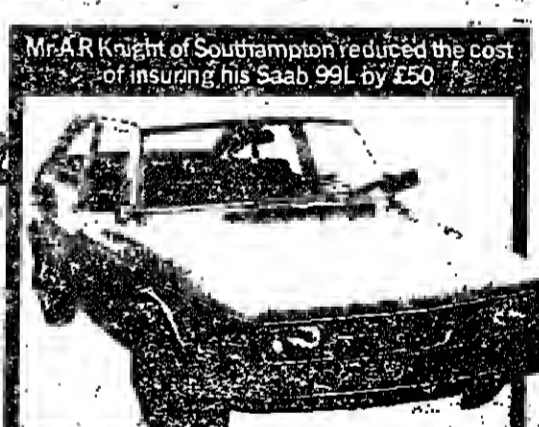
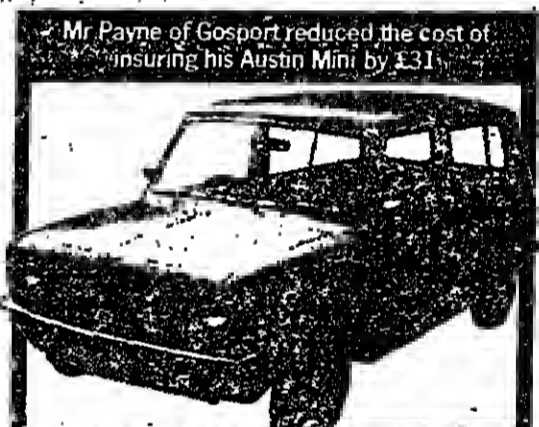
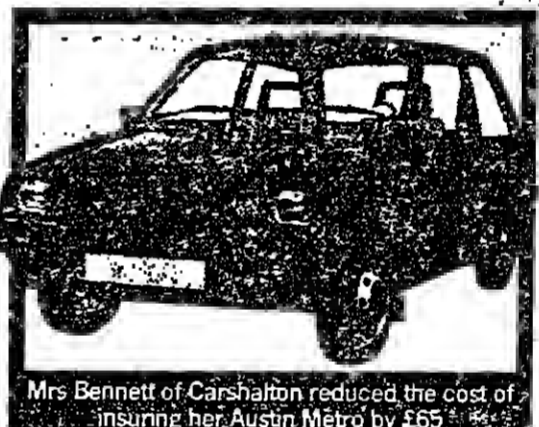
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Why Hanson shouldn't take over Imperial: A battery of evidence.

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Hanson's plan for Imperial.

The Hanson Trust offer document states that "the successful Hanson Trust technique of "hands-off" management will be put in place to support the existing managers and staff in realising the fullest possible potential."

In the light of these impressive-sounding plans, it's interesting to consider what happened in the only previous instance of the Hanson "hands-off" management style being applied to one of this country's best known consumer brands: Ever Ready.

The management of Ever Ready.

The fate of Ever Ready since its takeover in 1981 is a cautionary tale for anyone who thought Hanson would safeguard the company's long-term future.

For example, the Abingdon advanced projects division was sold off in 1982, hardly a demonstration of commitment to research and development in this highly competitive market.

Also in 1982, Duracell were happy to snap up their main rivals European operations, again courtesy of the Ever Ready management.

At the same time as these and other assets were being sold, capital expenditure in Ever Ready companies was being slashed by no less than 50%. (Based on the average for the three years before and after acquisition.)

And as if this weren't enough to blight Ever Ready's future, the price of the principal product also rose in the four years following acquisition by 33%, well above the rate of inflation.

Then there was the human cost of Hanson's takeover—over 40% of the UK workforce of the Ever Ready companies have already lost their jobs.

Given all this, it seems reasonable to ask whether Hanson's management philosophy was really "hands-off," or "sell-off."

The Ever Ready results—success or failure?

As you might expect, the result of selling assets, cutting investment and raising prices was a short-term boost in profits.

But what of Ever Ready since then? In the second

half of 1985, profits were down 31% compared to the same period in 1984.

The company also suffered a 20% loss of overall brand share between 1981 and 1985. So what does the future hold for this famous company in 1986, and beyond?

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The sources for the information contained in this advertisement are Hanson Subsidiaries' Accounts, Shaw's Price Guide, and the letter from the Chairman, Imperial Group plc to shareholders dated 16th January 1986. The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly.

سكدا من الأصل

Communist is among first to be set free by Manila

From David Watts, Manila

The new Aquino Government is to release an important member of the Communist Party of the Philippines among the first batch of 33 political detainees given their freedom.

Seoul warning
Seoul (Reuters) - The Government yesterday warned opposition politicians yesterday not to use the demise of President Marcos to create social unrest in South Korea after dissident leaders said that such a victory for democracy over dictatorship could spread to other parts of Asia.

Another guerrilla, Mr Rolando Moniel, will be released from house arrest. Also freed were five human rights lawyers, three from Mindanao and two from Abra.

The Government says that there are now 450 political prisoners under detention and that most should be freed by the end of the week.

One-day strike brings Greece to a halt

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Workers in Athens and 17 provincial towns staged a one-day strike yesterday in protest against the Socialist Government's austerity programme which has split the Greek labour movement.

The strike grounded all the flights of Olympic Airways, the national carrier, as well as those of foreign airlines served by it. It disrupted public transport and forced banks, private schools and theatres to close.

Haiti hit by more looting
Port-au-Prince (AP) - A dusk-to-dawn curfew was still in force throughout Haiti after renewed looting and demonstrations in protest at the attempted flight of a former secret police chief.

Arms charge
Kampala (AFP) - Mr Akana p'Ojok, the former Ugandan Power and Telecommunications Minister, was charged with possessing firearms, explosives and ammunition.

Soldiers stray
Helsinki (AFP) - Two Canadian soldiers who strayed into Finland while on Nato exercises in northern Norway were detained by Finnish border guards and taken back to Norway after questioning.

Marcos' vast bedroom covered with photographs of herself with heads of state. The former president was in none of them.

Mrs Aquino's earnest desire to forgive and forget has been extended to the political prisoners. She has said that she will release all who renounce violence.

The danger of violent revenge remains, and it has been learned that security forces have foiled a plot to assassinate the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile.

Mr Rodolfo Farinas, the Mayor of Laoag in Mr Marcos' home province, and eight bodyguards were arrested outside the Ministry of Defence after he tried to get close to Mr Enrile during a press conference. Security men found 16 weapons in his Mercedes and two other cars.

A bomb planted by departing Malacanang palace guards was detonated yesterday in the Pasig River. Local newspapers have carried photographs of what the military says were booby-trap bombs left behind in palace books, but there has been no independent confirmation.

The task of pulling together some sort of functioning government is moving ahead as fast as possible, but several Government offices have not yet received so much as a telephone call from their new ministers.

22 years for bus hijacker
Prague (AFP) - A Czechoslovak court has jailed for 22 years a man who hijacked a packed bus and threatened to blow it up unless he were allowed to leave for West Germany, according to a newspaper report.

The southern regional newspaper Jihoceska Prava said the hijacker, Vladimir Beno, aged 26, had been sentenced on Tuesday by a court in Budejovice and would serve his sentence in a third category, most severe, prison.



Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, greeting Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, during a thanksgiving Mass at Camp Crame yesterday attended by 5,000 Filipinos.

Aquino makes TV plea to Marcos

New York (AP) - President Aquino yesterday appealed to Mr Marcos to tell his loyalists not to cause any violence against the new Government.

Interviewed on ABC television's Good Morning America, Mrs Aquino said to

the ex-president: "Think of our country. Think of your countrymen who have already suffered so much under your regime. The time is now to make amends."

Mrs Aquino said she had

begun releasing political prisoners and would free communists who promised to renounce violence.

Her Government would try to recover government wealth reportedly taken by Mr Marcos and his circle.

The Filipinos who still live in fear of private armies

From Michael Hamlyn, Tarlac, Philippines

Sitting in the back of her sari-sari shop, which sells groceries and other necessities to the poorer classes in the little municipality of Gerona, Mrs Susanna Go, local co-ordinator of the Unido party of President Corazon Aquino, said: "Many of the Unido people are still wallowing in fear."

In spite of the installation of the new President in the capital's Malacanang Palace, an event for which Mrs Go sits wide-eyed in thankful astonishment, the situation in the countryside of Tarlac Province has not immediately changed, even though this is Aquino country. Mrs Aquino was born near by, in Concepcion.

There were still many unlicensed guns in the hands of private armies, she said, in spite of the appeals of the new Armed Forces Chief, General Ramos, for them to be given up.

Down the main highway towards Manila is another municipality, called Capas. There Mrs Go's fears are echoed. A young social studies teacher who went off with a band of fellow Aquino sympathizers to defend the revolution outside Camp Crame on the capital's outskirts, is quite clear that nothing much has yet changed back home. "We are afraid," he said. "The mayor here still has his private army."

Neither the teacher, nor his sympathizer would be named, even in a newspaper as far off as this, on the basis of anything against the mayor, Mr Rafael Suarez.

The Unido co-ordinator in the municipality, Mr Ramon de Jesus, was killed in the middle of the election campaign when ambushed by a gang of pro-Marcos hoodlums. Another man of the district was also killed, but two others escaped and have since been fined the killers. One was named as Mr Sec. Suarez, one of Mr Suarez's political bodyguards.



The teachers still remember with shudders that Mr Suarez came to the school to complain that they were brainwashing the children in social studies lessons. "Why do you teach politics in the classroom?" he asked them. "How can we teach social studies without covering politics?"

asked me about the... was the... only not... the... factor... in the... of the... camp today. Each side fears the other.

When I called at the Municipal Hall the mayor's staff said he was at home. As I called at his home, a man carrying a rifle... inside the house... told that the mayor had gone out an hour before. I also on a new where he was.

Government politics have long gone together in Philippines politics, and Tarlac Province is one of those which has suffered from the activities of the Communist insurgents of the New People's Army. In the 1970s the district was terrorized by a band under Commander P... but since his death in action the problems have almost diminished.

The leader of the provincial Unido group, former Governor Jose Macapinlac, is in the capital being briefed on the next stage in the transfer of power. The mayoral term of office expires towards the end of next month. Mrs Aquino on Wednesday ruled out any local elections in the near future, so she is likely to appoint her own men in their places. Only then will people like Mrs Go and the teachers begin to feel secure.

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The power
The Apricot Collection has all the power and versatility you expect from a high specification business computer. The standard 512K of memory is enough to cope with the latest integrated office systems.

And there's all the disk storage you need - The Apricot F2 has two floppy disk drives which can store the equivalent of a medium-sized novel. A built-in hard disk drive gives the Apricot F10 the capacity to store all the paperwork of a medium-sized company.

The keyboard
A professional-standard keyboard is a must for novices and skilled typists alike. That's why the Apricot Collection features all the typewriter keys, a numeric keypad for financial work, and a built-in clock and calculator.

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Whether you're running off the month's invoices, producing charts and tables, or turning your rough drafts into hard copy, you'll need a high-quality printer. That's why Apricot Collection computers come with a versatile printer - capable of handling both detailed graphics and correspondence quality lettering.

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Each Apricot Collection system gives you access to literally thousands of MS-DOS software packages, including all the big name packages from Lotus, Ashton Tate, Digital Research and many others.

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*Price shown is for complete packaged system shown above; Apricot F2 - twin disk drives, inclusive 9" mono green phosphor monitor, mouse, Writer 22 matrix printer and GEM software. Price excludes VAT.

Reagan faces bitter battle on military aid for Contras

From Michael Blayon, Washington

Congressional opponents of President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for Nicaraguan rebels fighting the Sandinista Government have begun to muster their forces, predicting that the President faces an uphill battle.

Senator Mark Hatfield, a Republican from Oregon, declared his opposition and said there would be "intense resistance" in the Senate in view of the projected cuts in domestic social programmes.

He and Senator Paul Simon, an Illinois Democrat, drafted a letter to the President, signed by 18 senators, urging a postponement of the aid request while further diplomatic negotiations were held through the Contadora group of Latin American countries.

Mr Reagan asked on Tuesday for military, as well as non-lethal aid for those fighting the Sandinistas. The money, to be transferred from the existing Pentagon budget, would give the Contras \$30 million in humanitarian aid for food, clothing, medicine and lorries, and a further \$70 million for weapons. The

present congressional appropriation of only \$27 million in humanitarian aid runs out at the end of next month.

Emphasizing the Administration's insistence that the rebels must now make an all-out military effort if they are to have any chance of forcing the Nicaraguan Government to negotiate, Mr Reagan said the money was needed to assist the Nicaraguan "democratic resistance". "Few now question that the rulers of Nicaragua are deeply committed communists, determined to consolidate their totalitarian communist state," Mr Reagan told Congress.

The proposal may be accepted by the Republican-controlled Senate, but Democrats in the House of Representatives, which they control, are already organizing their opposition.

MANAGUA: The Nicaraguan Defence Minister, Señor Humberto Ortega, said Nicaragua aims to carry on strengthening its defences in response to President Reagan's proposal to boost support for rebels (Reuters reports).



Bombay police carry away the former Indian Minister for Industry, Mr George Fernandes, for trying to block trains during a national protest against recent price increases.

Royal Tour of New Zealand Police swoop to arrest Maori activist

From Stephen Taylor Wellington

The Maori activist, Mr Dun Mhaka, and his wife, Diane Prince, are due to appear in court today after their arrest yesterday in a dramatic police swoop near the Queen's cavalcade.

Mr Mhaka, who has been threatening to make a whaka-pohane, a bare-bottom protest, during the royal tour of New Zealand, was pulled from his van as he joined the cavalcade, apparently attempting to catch up with the car carrying the Queen.

Mr Mhaka is a veteran of various local protest movements but first gained a more widespread notoriety when he

bared his backside at the Prince and Princess of Wales on their last visit to New Zealand. He has said he would be repeating the gesture, which he maintains is a traditional Maori insult, before the Queen.

Written on the side of the vehicle in which he was arrested yesterday were the slogans: "All the Queen's horses and all the Queen's men will not stop me doing it again", and "Wild man let it all hang out in protest."

Later his wife, who was in the van with him, was also arrested. Police said they were being held in custody overnight and would appear in court this morning to face

dangerous driving and perhaps other charges.

Their arrest brings to six the number of people detained over incidents related to the royal tour, including two young women who have been charged with assaulting the Queen as a result of the egg-throwing affair on Monday.

There seemed little likelihood at the outset that yesterday would produce any more of the incidents which have been a feature of the tour. The programme was for a visit to a National Trust swampland, followed by the police college and then Privy Council business.

But as the Queen was travelling from the Tuapu swamp to the college - in a

Daimler which she used on her first visit to New Zealand in 1952/53 - the van carrying Mr Mhaka pulled out of a side road.

Witnesses said it started in speed up with the apparent intention of catching up with the royal party but was promptly intercepted by a police car.

Mr Mhaka, a powerfully built Maori wearing red shorts and a vest, was taken from his van and stood for a few moments talking to reporters before being hustled off in a police vehicle.

By the time Mr Mhaka has appeared in court today the royal party will have departed for Nelson and Christchurch, on South Island.

Ethiopians flee forced move

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Refugees from Ethiopia are flooding into northern Somalia at a rate of about 600 a day, according to United Nations officials.

More than 27,000 men, women and children have reached a refugee centre at Tug Wajale, about five miles from the Ethiopian border, since the exodus began early last month. Most are members of the Oromo tribe and have walked about 60 miles from their former homes near Harer and Dire Dawa rather than be resettled under the Ethiopian Government pro-

gramme of "villagization". Mr Gary Troeller, of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Somalia, said that the influx was causing serious problems in northern Somalia because of a shortage of water and other necessities.

Cholera has broken out in Tug Wajale and some other camps and several hundred cases are being treated. So far, 17 people have died.

The Somali authorities have now made available a large area, with water, at Biyaley, about 20 miles from Berbera, for the Tug Wajale refugees.

Mr Troeller said that the refugee influx showed no sign of ending. On some days, more than 1,000 refugees entered Somalia. "They are not drought victims. They are well nourished and had been successful farmers before deciding to flee," he said.

The influx is increasing the size of Somalia's already formidable refugee problem. The country has more than 800,000 refugees, most of them having fled Ethiopia during the Ogaden war in 1977 and 1978.

UN fears Afghan genocide

From Alan McGregor Geneva

Continued fighting in Afghanistan "will lead inevitably to a situation approaching genocide", according to a report presented to the UN Human Rights Commission.

"The only solution is the withdrawal of foreign troops", the report suggests. Civilian casualties last year are estimated at 35,000.

The report, from the commission's special rapporteur, Dr Felix Ermacora of Austria, who last month visited Afghan refugee camps in Baluchistan and Pakistan's North-West Province, describes the conflict as characterized by "systematic brutality".

The 120,000-strong Soviet armed forces - described in the report as "foreign troops" - continue to use anti-personnel mines, delayed action and booby-trapped bombs, such as toys, pens, cakes of soap, snuff boxes and what appear to be bundles of bank notes. He spoke to children injured by "these horrible weapons".

Burning liquid - dropped from aircraft in canisters which open in the air and spray the ground - and napalm are among other weapons used by the Russians.

In Khad, the Afghan communist security forces' interrogation centre, women interviewed by the rapporteur said that among torture techniques employed are "sticking needles in the fingers and hanging by the hair for prolonged periods".

More than a third of the Afghan population is now living outside the country, with the exodus continuing at the rate of 6,000 to 8,000 each month.

BERN: A Russian soldier captured by Afghan insurgents and interned for two years in Switzerland under a humanitarian accord was released on Wednesday and immediately boarded an Aeroflot flight to Moscow (AP reports).

The release, announced by the Swiss Foreign Ministry, leaves just one Russian soldier still interned under an accord negotiated in 1982.

Wrangling Quebec MP quits

From John Best Ottawa

Mr Jean Chretien, a prominent Liberal and former Cabinet minister, yesterday resigned his seat in the Canadian House of Commons.

The sudden decision capped a smouldering dispute between Mr Chretien and Mr John Turner, the party leader and former Prime Minister, over control of the Quebec wing of the party.

It could do Mr Turner and his party immense harm in the predominantly French-speaking Quebec, a province crucial to the party's chances of regaining national power.

Mr Chretien, aged 52, has a strong popular following in the traditional Liberal province, which swung strongly Conservative in the 1984 Tory landslide. Recent polls indicate that voters are returning to their Liberal mould.

Mr Chretien ran second to Mr Turner in the June, 1984, Liberal leadership campaign, but has never tried to hide his ambition for the party leadership and the post of Prime Minister that may again one day go with it. Some prominent Liberals have accused him of disloyalty.

The resignation followed a meeting with Mr Turner in which they tried to settle their differences. Later, Mr Turner paid tribute in the Commons to "a great Canadian".

Resignation threat to Malaysian Cabinet

From M. G. G. Pillai Kuala Lumpur

The Malaysian Cabinet faces a serious split after the abrupt resignation yesterday of the deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Musa Hitam.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, has stonewalled all inquiries, but has called an emergency meeting of the supreme council of his United Malay National Organisation (UMNO) party for tonight.

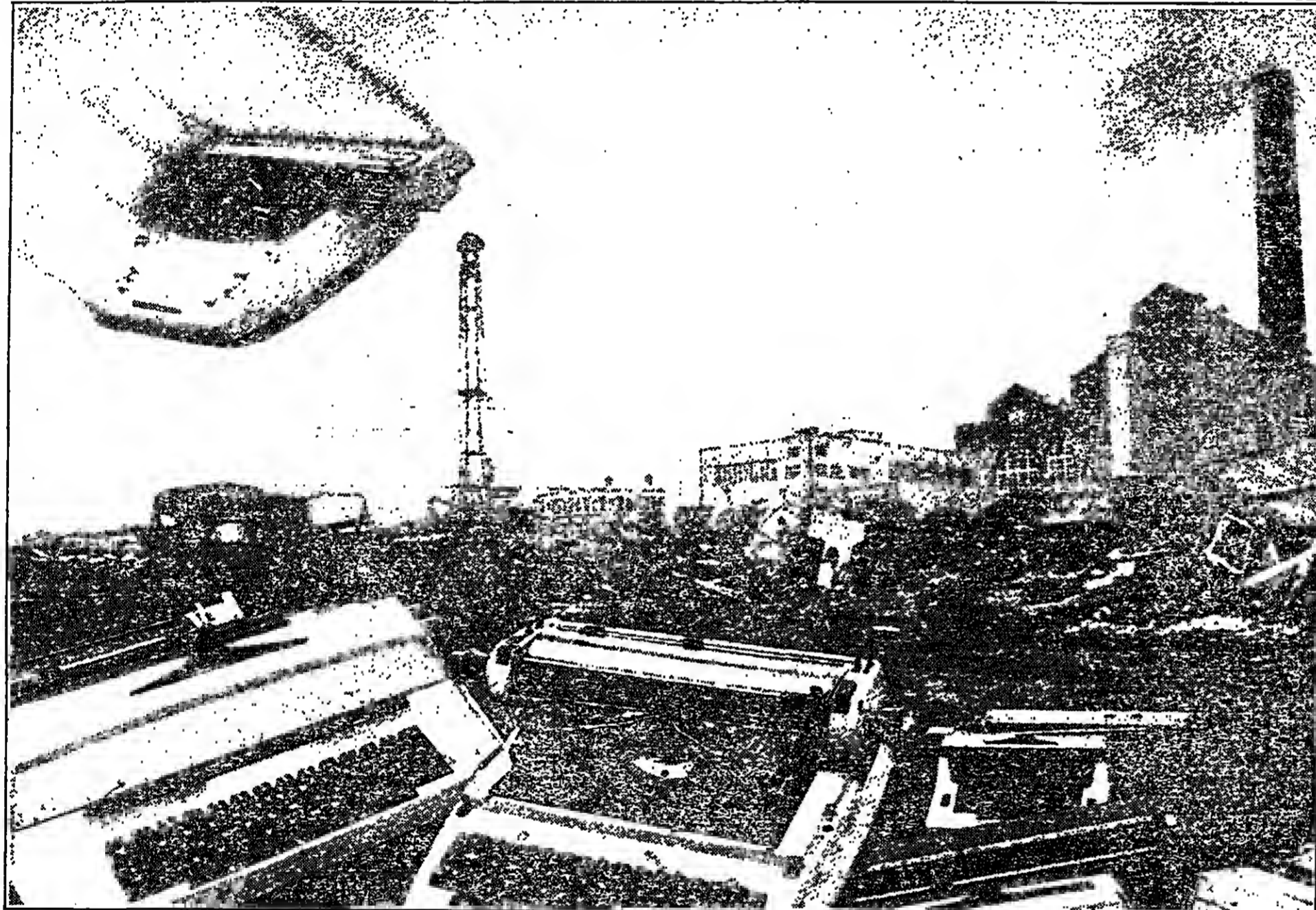
Datuk Musa resigned as deputy Prime Minister, Home Minister and deputy president of UMNO.

Dr Mahathir expects to call early general elections within the next six months. The Prime Minister has



Dr Mahathir, beset by political setbacks,

suffered a number of political setbacks recently, notably growing Islamic fundamentalist pressures.



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The 8256 comes with a comprehensive and simple user guide, but if you want to learn really fast, there are a great many training courses available around the country.

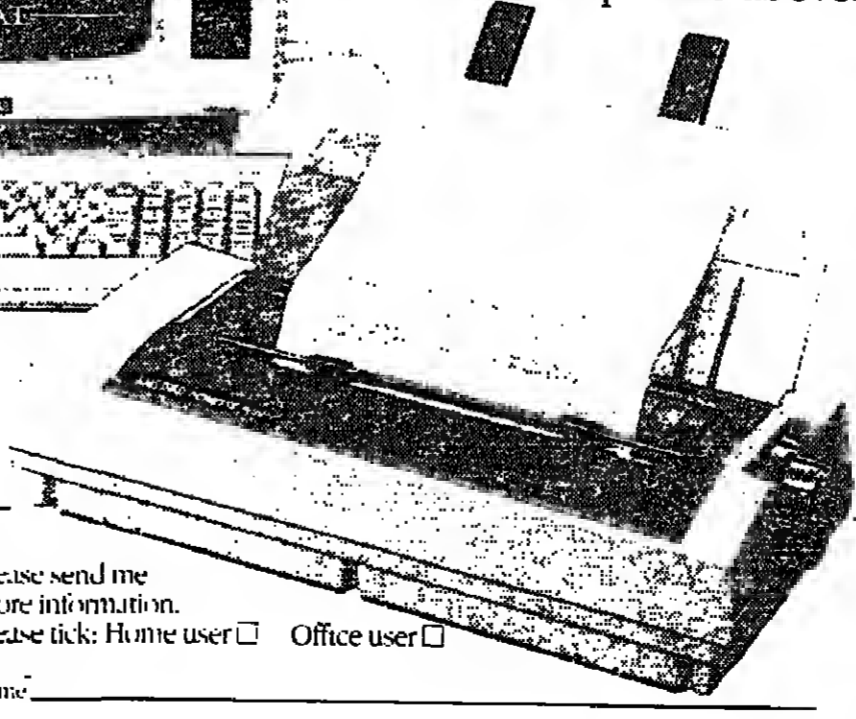
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- BUILDERS' MERCHANTS FEDERATION
- GRAND METROPOLITAN PLC
- TESCO STORES LTD.
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- BASS PLC
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- ARGYLL GROUP PLC
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- RANK XEROX LIMITED
- GEORGE WIMPEY PLC
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Scotch on the rocks?

The world's biggest selling whisky, as a full-page advertisement in the current takeover battle for Distillers boldly proclaims, is a Japanese substance named Old Suntory. True enough, but only just.

It is intended to demean Distillers, and to highlight the sluggishness and decline of this once unassailable giant of the Scotch whisky industry. True, Distillers have been sluggish, but as a claim it is highly misleading, and unfair both to the company and the industry at large. The Japanese may have flooded the earth with cars and computers, but they have singularly failed to fill the oceans with whisky.

What the advertisements do not state is that almost all Japanese whisky is drunk in Japan. Nor do the advertisements reveal that in the last five years sales of Old Suntory have been virtually halved as the Japanese have turned in droves to a much lighter rice-based spirit, *Shochu*.

The fortunes of Suntory and Scotch are curiously bound up. Not only has the Japanese market for whisky shrunk alarmingly, but also - breathe it not in the glens of Speyside - Suntory whiskies contain a fair proportion of the finest Scotch malts, including Glenlivet and Glen Grant, two of Scotland's premier names.

Exports of Scotch to Japan - its third largest overseas market - fell by nearly one third last year, almost entirely due to the decline in demand for bulk Highland malt whisky to blend with the local product. That, at least, has taken much of the heat out of a fierce argument that has raged in the Scotch industry for years: should malt whisky be exported at all?

What is needed now is a bit more hard sell

Opponents have argued long and hard that by doing so the industry cuts its own throat. The distillers who do it (Glenlivet-Glen Grant, owned by Seagrams, is one of the biggest) argue that they have an urgent need to shift stocks. One Highland distillery, Tomatin, which relied heavily on sales of bulk malt whisky abroad, recently went bankrupt. It has since been bought by a Japanese company.

The Scotch industry has been through several years of deep depression, with nearly 30 of Scotland's 131 distilleries closed permanently or temporarily. But there are several indications that Scotch is on the road to recovery - something of an irony at a time when Distillers is in such decline.

Scotch whisky earned £994 million in exports in 1985, an increase in value of 7 per cent on the previous year, even though the volume fell from 231 million litres to 226 million. The fall in volume is largely explained by the decline in bulk malt exports.

According to one of leading analysts of the industry, Alan Gray of the Glasgow stockbrokers Campbell Neill: "Although the total volume of exports has declined the encouraging factor is that by far the largest category of export - bottled-in-Scotland blends - has been increasing. It went up by 1.7 per cent in 1984 when total export volume fell by 2 per cent. Bottled-in-Scotland accounts for 67 per cent of all exports: it is much more profitable than bulk, and creates many more Scottish jobs, particularly in blending and bottling plants.

"Bottled single malt whisky exports have shot up by 27 per cent, unfortunately single malt accounts for only 2 per cent of exports.

"In 1985 the home whisky market

While the battle goes on for control of the declining Distillers Company, the whisky industry's fortunes, ironically, are looking up. Alan Hamilton pours out the story

also registered an increase of about 5 per cent, its first since 1979. Overall, I am moderately encouraged; stocks are now more in line with demand, and the industry is getting its marketing together." What is needed now, he says, is a bit more hard sell.

That Scotch whisky makes any headway at all is a tribute to the excellence of the product and the skill with which it is sold, for in almost every market in the world it is discriminated against by high taxation and other restrictions, a victim of its own success. A delegation from the Scotch Whisky Association is at this moment in Tokyo trying to persuade the Japanese to remove the import taxes which are higher than those on American bourbon. Scotch is taxed at twice the rate of top-grade Japanese whisky. The tariffs are far higher than for the small amount of Japanese spirits coming into the EEC.

Common Market countries, with France as the ring-leader, have been among the worst offenders in imposing discriminatory taxes against Scotch. In the past two years, however, the French have been shamed into removing the worst of them and the country has become Scotch's second biggest export market, with an increase of 16 per cent last year - much of it, unfortunately, blended whisky shipped in bulk and bottled there under the brand name "Label 5".

The Common Market as a whole now rivals the United States as the biggest importer of Scotch. But the whisky industry is punished equally, and often needlessly, at home. Whisky is one of the greatest gifts to Scotland, and to the world, but most of all to the Chancellor, who collected £800 million from it last year in excise duty and VAT.

According to John Macphail, chairman of the Scotch Whisky Association, the taxman's refusal to take account of the inflationary factor on maturing stocks of whisky - which

The industry awaits the Budget with foreboding

must slumber in their Highland warehouses for a legal minimum of three years to ensure quality - effectively confiscates the profit on three out of every four bottles sold in Britain. The abolition of stock relief in the 1984 Budget was a serious blow to the industry.

"It is estimated that the historical cost of our stocks is £1,600 million," Macphail says. "With inflation at 5.5 per cent, an illusory inflation profit of £88 million a year has been calculated. That profit is in fact non-existent but despite that, with Corporation tax at 35 per cent, it gives rise to a tax charge of £30.8 million a year. We feel we are being subjected to this simply because of administrative expediency."

The industry has made its submis-

sion to the Chancellor, and awaits his Budget with some foreboding. It also wants him to defer the collection of excise duty, currently levied four weeks after the whisky leaves the bonded warehouse, to eight weeks, allowing the distillers time to recoup the money from retail sales.

But these are not the factors which have pushed the once-proud Distillers Company into decline, for others have prospered while the giant has not. None of the top three whiskies on the home market is now a DCL brand. Fifteen years ago DCL had half the UK market; now it has only 17 per cent. Overseas its Johnnie Walker Red Label is still the world's best seller, but it has shown some decline, as have Haig, Black and White, and the group's other internationally famous brands.

Scotch whisky is all about marketing, an area in which Distillers has fallen down woefully, for who can truly tell the difference between a Bell's and a Grouse? The modern industry was founded by two brilliant marketing men, James Buchanan and Tommy Dewar, who took the anonymous spirit of their native land and put a label on it.

Better marketing is the key to the future. Clive Sims, Johnnie Walker's marketing services director, explains: "The great growth in exports in the 1970s was achieved by pushing into new corners of the world. Now we have run out of world, but we certainly have not run out of potential customers. In the United States, for example, only 15 per cent of adults drink Scotch whisky; the room for expansion is enormous."

Spirits are losing ground to wines and beers

But there are difficulties; American tastes are currently locked into ideas of health which turns them away from strong drink, and spirits are losing some ground to wine and beer. Part of the answer, according to Sims, is to introduce new brands carefully targeted at specific age or social groups. That, however, brings its own dangers. The American market is dominant, and was largely created by six top brands; all the others ride on their backs and too many new labels could affect their sales.

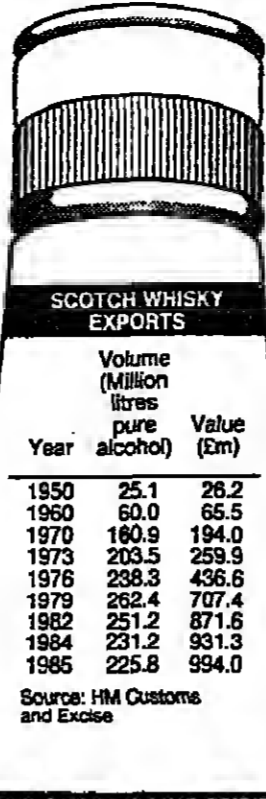
Traditionalists also fear that any new owners of Distillers may be tempted to trade down market and put a major effort into cut-price brands. Scotch, abroad at least, sells largely on being a top quality, premium product. Even in the land of the free and the free market, a bottle of premium Scotch in New York is twice the price of a bottle of bourbon.

Another part of the answer is to dispel the myth, elung to in America, that Scotch must be drunk on its own. Sales would leap, it is believed, were Scotch accepted as a base for cocktails.

"The cocktail fashion can only grow in America; I have even heard them asking for Perrier and water." Whoever becomes the eventual owner of Distillers, and injects fresh enthusiasm and marketing skill into it, could find himself the winner of a very rich prize indeed. There is every indication that the world's thirst for the world's highest quality spirit drink will continue to increase, provided governments, including the British, can be persuaded not to stand in the way.

Old Sumphry may yet be knocked off the top shelf.

Illustration by Geoffrey Sims and Neil Calman



Brand	Country	Quantity (Million cases per year)	% change per year since 1980
1 Bacardi Rum	Various	18.6	+3.8
2 Smirnoff Vodka	Various	13.5	-0.2
3 Ricard Anise	Various	7.0	-1.7
4 Suntory Old Whisky	Japan	6.9	-13.1
5 Gordon's Gin	Various	6.8	-6.2
6 Johnnie Walker Red Label Whisky	Scotland	8.4	-2.2
7 Seagrams'			
7 Crown Whisky	USA	5.8	-5.4
8 J & B Rare Whisky	Scotland	5.0	+0.5
9 Suntory Old Whisky	Japan	4.9	-0.5
10 Jim Beam Whisky	USA	4.8	+2.2
11 Bell's Whisky	Scotland	4.3	-2.7
12 Canadian Mist Whisky	Canada	4.3	+8.5

Brand	Owner
1 Johnnie Walker Red Label	Distillers
2 J & B Rare	Grand Metropolitan
3 Dewar's	Distillers
4 Ballantine's	Hiram Walker
5 Chivas Regal	Seagrams
6 Johnnie Walker Black Label	Distillers
7 Black and White	Distillers
8 Bell's	Guinness
9 Haig	Distillers
10 Vat 69	Distillers

Brand	Owner	% market (estimated)
1 Bell's	Guinness	19
2 Teacher's	Allied Breweries	13
3 The Famous Grouse	Highland Distillers	9
4 Claymore	Distillers	6
5 Grant's Standfast	William Grant	6
6 Whyte and Mackay	Lonrho	5
7 White Horse	Distillers	3
8 Haig	Distillers	3
9 Stewart's Cream	Allied Breweries	2
10 Long John	Whitbread	1
11 Mackintosh's	Invergordon Distillers	1
12 Campbell Neill and Co		

Country	Quantity (Million litres pure alcohol)	% change on Jan-Nov 1984
1 USA	65.9	-3
2 France	23.2	+16
3 Japan	15.3	-29
4 Italy	13.7	+12
5 Spain	8.2	-6
6 South Africa	8.1	-3
7 Australia	8.0	+10
8 West Germany	7.8	+1
9 Belgium/Luxembourg	5.5	-7
10 Canada	4.7	-11
11 Greece	4.2	+24
12 Netherlands	3.9	-16
13 Sweden	3.2	+14
14 Venezuela	2.9	+12
15 Brazil	2.9	-31

Total worldwide exports: 225.8 million litres (-2%)
Source: HM Customs and Excise

Talking to a select few

A new magazine is aimed at the young, nouveau riche Arabs who have begun to see Britain as home

This week a bizarre new magazine joins the growing range of glossies which are posted free to a "select" mailing list. It is called *Arabel*.

Arabel is the first glossy society/business magazine exclusively designed for the wealthy Arab community resident in the UK. With a circulation of 30,000, *Arabel* is distributed free every month to the business and/or private addresses of Arab royalty (princes and sheikhs), ambassadors, diplomatic staff, bank and company chairmen, managing directors... it says.

The premium advertising market of property, BAWs and jewellery is now being pursued by a whole range of publications, from the established ones like *Tatler* to mail-shot newcomers like *The London Gentleman*. The UK Arab market is served by a variety of business and news publications. But *Arabel* is something new. In this case the mailing list really is "select" - for Arabs only. And it offers them their own *Tatler* and therefore a new kind of publishing - and marketing - identity.

There are about 500,000 Arabs in Britain. The majority have much in common with any other immigrant community - they tend to be poorer than average and they are predominantly employed in menial tasks in local authority and catering ventures. Their numbers have remained static for some years.

But since the oil rises of 1973, they have been joined by two new classes. First, there are the oil-rich sheikhs and princes for whom Britain provides one home among many others and who supply material for an endless list of anecdotes about their limitless wealth. Second, there is a new Arab professional class. Their assets may be small but their incomes are high. Typically they work for banks or the diplomatic corps.

London has provided this second group with a natural home. It is still one of the few financial centres of the world and it retains a reputation for liberality and stability, if not for tolerance of foreigners. The new magazine is an attempt to penetrate that market. Its publisher, Farid El Khatib, believes these newcomers are now sufficiently established to want something that ties them together socially.

Now, 13 years on, Britain is beginning to feel like home. For reasons ranging from political instability in the mere fact that they like it here, their stay is becoming permanent. Children are growing up and becoming part of English society, and the seclusion in which most of them have lived no longer seems tolerable. As El Khatib points out, this means that the old complexities of national differences between the 26 different Arab nationalities are beginning to be suppressed. They are determined to re-

main Arab but are finding that Syrians and Egyptians, Lebanese and Jordanians have more in common when they are in Britain.

But the popular, prejudiced view that all Arabs are either rich or politically unstable remains. "It can be very embarrassing being an Arab in Britain," said one banker, "but the association of Arabs with enormous wealth doesn't really make sense. Of course there are poor Arabs just as there are poor Pakistanis, but I also know Pakistanis who are as rich or richer than our sheikhs and princes."

For him, the property, jewellery and fashion of *Arabel* is acceptable - it is servicing one small part of the Arab community. Others find it distinctly distasteful. The Arab Women's Council began as a relief organization in the wake of the 1967 Middle East war. It was founded and is still run by Dr Esmat El Said, an Egyptian who has been in Britain for almost 30 years.

The meetings at her home in south Kensington are attended by women from almost every Arab country.



Glamour: The Arab image

They are more interested in the 7,000 Moroccans in north Kensington than the half dozen Gulf princes in Park Lane.

Over tea and Middle Eastern sweets and savouries, they brushed talk of *Arabel* aside and complained of the damaging consequences of reinforcing the impression that Arabs were invariably rich. "There are only about five genuinely rich Arab states," Dr El Said pointed out, "and many of the others are desperately poor."

In the dummy edition of the magazine, picture coverage of a party was sadly headed. "Few women present" - suggesting the community's own socializing has some way to go before it takes on the ease and gloss of that reported in *Tatler*. Yet the title page made a game effort - there were pictures of Prince Michael and the Princess of Wales as well as of Omar Sharif.

"To qualify for the *Arabel* controlled circulation list, the absolute minimum household income will be £25,000 per annum," adds the publicity. "Median and average incomes will be far in excess of this."

The AWC's leaflets talk of hospital visiting, social and legal problems and educational committees. *Arabel* may be highlighting the fact that new divisions are replacing old ones but at least they are merely the same sort of divisions from which every other race suffers.

Bryan Appleyard
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THE TIMES SATURDAY

The weekend starts here

Françoise Sagan: life as a gamble

Games of Chance

Françoise Sagan, the celebrated French writer, confesses to a lifelong love affair with gambling, legacy of years spent in the glamorous casinos of Cannes and Deauville. In *Games of Chance*, an extract from her new book *With Fondlest Regards*, she explains with pride untamed by remorse her fatal fascination with the gaming tables, often bringing her to the brink of ruin.

The prodigal daughter
Liza Minnelli
back on stage

Harvest of the sea
La Rochelle's
fruits-de-mer

Portfolio

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Life in the City of Joy

How the people of a Calcutta slum find happiness at the bottom rung of the poverty ladder

Hopeful: Dominique Lapiere

that he need not close this island of hope".

He wrote about Stevens in a French magazine, and the public sent £70,000 in response. Then Lapiere and his wife decided to go and live in a Calcutta slum called Anand Nagar. The translation is "City of Joy", the title of his latest book. This was written in the South of France with the words *odeur, couleur, bruit* propped up in front of him to recall the stench of the open sewers, the beauty of the people, and the constant noise. It deals with the lives of four people: a Catholic priest, an Assamese medical student, an Assamese nurse and a rickshaw puller.

In a space the size of three football pitches in the City of Joy lived 70,000 Hindus, Moslems, refugees from drought and famine, lepers and eunuchs, and yet the place seemed full of happiness. Festivals took place every day, with 400 people celebrating a child's first tooth. "That level of life teaches you how to share", says Lapiere. "No one is alone - if you are alone, you are destroyed. I found more positive values than in our so-called civilized western world. I was never asked - only given."

He got used to the rats, the scorpions, the flies and the heat, and remembers seeing a woman fanning herself in her sleep, wondering to himself how long it took to learn that skill. His book has already sold two million copies, and half the royalties are going to the people of Calcutta.

If the City of Joy is improved by even so much as covering in the sewers, the rents will rise, and the people who would benefit will have to go.

"Calcutta is so inhuman, so terrible, that it has the magic power to make super people, apostles, saints. Where you would expect only death, you discover life", says Lapiere. He adds a quotation from Tagore. "Adversity is big, but man is bigger than adversity."

Philippa Toomey

The City of Joy by Dominique Lapiere, Century Hutchinson, £12.95

CONCISE CROSSWORD (NO 887)

ACROSS

- Against (6)
- Whizzing complaint (6)
- Pea fruit (3)
- Sound intensity (6)
- Tainted (6)
- Money owed (4)
- Semolina, meat (8)
- Looking glass (6)
- Small harpsichord (6)
- Vessel support (8)
- Nuisance (4)
- Skippy bathers (6)
- Ideal society (6)
- Gingiva (3)
- Gravily law physicist (6)
- Retaliated (6)

DOWN

- Produce (5)
- Stammer (7)
- Knitted vest (7)
- Goodbye (5)
- Theme (5)
- Large lent (7)
- Drink delicately (31)
- Picture (7)
- Line up (5)
- Simpleton (3)
- Orange citrus (7)
- Reg (7)
- Dees (5)
- Line up (5)
- Best wound (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 886

ACROSS: 8 In consequence 9 Ria 10 Extortion 11 Barge 13 Rectal 16 Whetted 19 March 22 Emollient 24 Jam 25 Disconcerting
DOWN: 1 Midrib 2 Eclair 3 Interact 4 Rectus 5 Purr 6 Inast 7 Kennel 12 Ash 14 Cemetery 15 Arc 16 Wickedly 17 Epist 18 Drench 20 Rejoice 21 Homage 23 Loon

The French elections

In an article on the French elections (Spectrum, February 24), it was stated that "there is no social security in France". This should have read "there is no social security safety net in France". Unlike Britain, France operates a finite system whereby after a certain time a claimant is no longer entitled to benefits.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Surviving in the nuclear shadow

MEDICAL BRIEFING SPECIAL

SELLAFIELD

Sally Brompton on the dilemma of the West Cumbrian community whose livelihood rests on a nuclear 'minefield'

The first question that the doctor asked Mrs Anne Todd when her 10-year-old son Robert was admitted to hospital was: "Do you blame Windscale?"

"I said 'yes' because I'd already thought of it," says Mrs Todd, "and we'd already had, in just a few years, more leukaemia cases in this area than our doctor said he would expect in his lifetime."

Four weeks later, Robert was dead of leukaemia, another cold statistic among the reams of scientific data that may one day prove that living near a nuclear processing plant can be lethal.

Anne Todd and her husband Ken, a local garage owner in the Cumbrian village of Broughton-in-Furness, are just two of the thousands of ordinary people caught in the middle of the political minefield which currently surrounds the Sellafield nuclear processing plant.

Still referred to as "Windscale" by the local inhabitants who remember it from the days when it was a top-secret military establishment, Sellafield has become a chilling symptom of the side effects of progress, a radioactive time bomb to be tossed back and forth between the scientists, politicians, pressure groups and media.

While the local rate of childhood leukaemia is acknowledged to be significantly higher than the national average, and while high level doses of radiation are medically accepted as a cause of cancer, there is still a considerable amount of research to be done to find out whether causal links exist between nuclear plants and the incidence of malignancies in their vicinities. None has been established yet.

But while the academics and statisticians dig still deeper into the nuclear unknown, scrutinizing everything from the post mortem tissue of children who die around Sellafield to the eating habits of the local residents, the people who actually inhabit the sprawling rural communities of West Cumbria continue to live with the fear of contamination.

"The principle concern for us is the long-term effect of low level radiation," says Dr Barry Walker, whose group general practice in the village of Seascale is overlooked by Sellafield's four giant cooling towers.

"The levels of contamination we're talking about these days are certainly very low indeed and unlikely to kill you in conventional medical terms. My concern — and that of people like me — is that we are really underestimating the seriousness of having this stuff in our environment over a long period."

"It's not simply what has already been dumped in the sea that worries us, the problems of the airborne emissions need to be looked at as well."

While much of the local population is transient, workers who remain at the plant for just two or three years, it is the hard core of native Cumbrians living in the immediate vicinity who concern Walker.

"It's among the people who have been working at the plant since the early 1950s or living in the area since then that you'd now expect to start seeing things happening," he says. "I get older patients coming into my surgery with malignancies which I personally believe are related to radiation, and I think that in 10 or 15 years time we will inherit the legacy of what has been going on here as far as the workers and people who have been living here for a long time are concerned."

Harry King was one of the first workers to join Windscale in 1951 at the age of 23. He began as a security officer and was then moved to the processing department. Ten years later it was discovered that the dust extractor in his particular unit had not been operating for some time and the department was closed down for modification

while King and his colleagues were moved to another building.

"Harry came home and said he had received an overdose of plutonium and mustn't work with it again," his wife, Jean, recalls.

"He didn't actually say he was worried but in the following weeks I noticed a change in his outlook. He seemed to become much more quiet and introverted. I suppose, looking back, that he must have been worrying about it but he was the kind of person who would have kept it from me so that I wouldn't worry too."

Four years later, Harry King's teeth began falling out, followed by cancer in 1971. He was forced to retire from work having lost his eyesight as a result of cataracts. Two years later he died from cancer of the brain.

British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), who took on the plant from the UK Atomic Energy Authority in 1971, denied liability but paid his widow £8,000 compensation in a test case in 1977. The widows of three of Harry King's colleagues are currently claiming compensation for their husbands' deaths from cancer under BNFL's new compensation scheme which dispenses with the need for expensive court cases. The scheme, set up in 1982 to compensate the families of staff who die from cancers allegedly caused by radiation, has just been expanded to include more morbidity payments made before death occurs.

So far, five payments worth a total of £246,233 have been made under the scheme out of 164 claims, of which 94 have already been dismissed by BNFL. At no time has the company accepted liability for any of the deaths.

In the plant's highly sophisticated medical department, Dr Jack Strain, Sellafield's senior medical officer, is reassuring. "Quite frankly, radiation is the very least of our worries and we do not look on it as a problem either on site or outside the plant."

"There is surface contamination which is not unusual when you're working in the active area, but that's no problem at all and just washes off with soap and water. On rare occasions, we do get internal intakes of radioactive materials, mainly plutonium on this site, which can be swallowed or



Mrs Jean King, whose husband died of cancer, outside Sellafield: 'Harry came home and said he had received an overdose of plutonium'

deposited in a wound, or inhaled and lodged in the lungs and then passed in the bloodstream to other organs."

If routine monitoring indicates that plutonium has been inhaled, the worker is made to blow on a tissue and if the result of that is positive then he is given an intravenous injection of a collating agent which binds up the plutonium and enhances the excretion of it. That is followed by a whole-body monitor and, if necessary, faecal and urine tests, the results of which can take between four and six weeks.

Dr Strain emphasizes that in most cases the worker is cleared and returned to normal duty. "On the very rare occasions when we find plutonium has been inhaled we have a long discussion with the

person involved. We present the facts to them and show them that so far nobody has developed any side effects from working in the nuclear industry. Of course there is some initial anxiety, but most of the workers on this site know what is going on and are philosophical about it."

As far as risks of contamination among the local communities are concerned, Strain is equally uncompromising. "There are no effects at all on people who live in the vicinity," he says. "The locals have lived with the plant for a long time now and they accept it. And so far we haven't seen any demerit effects in the surrounding population."

While many of the villagers living along this picturesque strip of coastline which borders the Lake District

would outwardly agree with him, they are the first to acknowledge that their livelihood depends upon Sellafield.

With a full-time staff of 6,500 plus another 5,000 contracted employees, the nuclear plant is undoubtedly the mainstay of West Cumbria's economy. Dr Barry Walker estimates that of his practice's 6,700 patients scattered over an area of 300 square miles, 90 per cent of those working are employed at Sellafield with almost all the remaining 10 per cent dependant upon it for their various trades. Only the small local farming community could survive without the nuclear industry.

In Seascale itself, a tiny windswept village of pebble-dashed semis with a population of 1,000 adults and 200 children, attitudes vary. Pam States' biggest worry is the loss of the weekend passing trade at the small seafront hotel which she and her husband Tom, both former Sellafield employees, have owned for the past four years.

"The nuclear scares are killing this area," she says. "It's all a lot of fuss about nothing. I was born here, my daughter was born here and all my family have lived here for years and the only problem is the large number of old people in the area because everyone lives so long."

Dr Walker is sceptical about such apparent complacency among the local community. "Of course they all say reassuring things to you," he says, "but if someone offered them the same job which wasn't in Seascale, most of them would be off like a shot."

He admits that if he were to be offered a comparable practice in

another part of the country he, too, would leave the area where he was born. In the meantime, his three small children are not allowed to swim in the sea nor eat local fish nor pick up anything they may find on the beach. "It's a case of minimising the exposure but it's probably worst in the home, anyway, because it appears to concentrate the stuff," he says.

I'm not anti-nuclear, but I feel the nuclear industry doesn't know all the answers yet

Many of the local residents, who privately confess to being worried about the situation, compare the risks to the dangers of living in a big city and prefer to stay. Even Jean King, whose grief drove her to several attempts of suicide after her husband's death, admits: "I wouldn't live anywhere else. I was brought up around here and as a child I spent very happy days on the local beaches — a pleasure that future generations won't have."

Dr David Todd, a general practitioner in Barrow-in-Furness, sums up local opinion when he says: "I'm not an anti-nuclear person but I do feel that the nuclear industry, doesn't know all the answers yet. They try to reassure the public from a position of strength whereas in fact the reasons they have learned — especially at Sellafield — is because of all the mistakes they have made over the years."

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A SPECIALIST OPINION

Radiation: the universal danger

Dr Alice Stewart, a specialist in the health risks of low-level radiation, believes as a result of her own research that background radiation can affect the risk of cancer, particularly in the case of an unborn child.

"We know that a single X-ray shot can have a cancer effect on a foetus or an embryo, which raises the suspicion that, if you put up the background radiation to which we are all exposed by contaminating the environment, either by gamma radiation or by radioactive particles in the things that people might accidentally eat or breathe, then this

fact that operators were working at an average level of well below a tenth of what is considered to be safe.

"The effect was small and hard to detect but it was there," Dr Stewart said. "It was detectable in women who had even lower doses than the men."

Her view is that there is no such thing as a safe level. "What do you mean by safe?" she said. "Nuclear authorities tend to assume that the effect of these low doses is so small that it is undetectable, but that does not mean that it is not there."

Dr Stewart, a senior research fellow in the Department of Social Medicine at Birmingham University, suspects that background radiation may be leading to both cancer and congenital defects "without our knowing anything about it".

She cites a recent survey at a nuclear plant in America where the radiation still exhibited signs of "having a cancer effect that was not expected, despite the



Dr Jack Strain: there are no ill effects on the local people



Dr Barry Walker: the long-term effect is the principal concern

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Hope and the true romantic

Anna Massey has the sort of voice that Shakespeare would have said made heaven drowsy with its harmony, and flowed languorously on like a brook. "It was a very dear man, a friend of mine who first said I must start reading Anita Brookner's books", recalls Massey. "They are so subtle, so intricate, so passionate, and I think I feel true empathy — though I never quite know what the word means — with her heroines."

She takes a deep breath, stares with grave, slightly protuberant, eyes and the brook begins unexpectedly to babble. "Anyway, I was chatting to my TV presenter friend Sue Birtwhistle and I told her she must read Anita Brookner. Shortly afterwards, we plucked up the nerve to write to this woodrose author suggesting she might like to do a film script for us."

The woodrose author, it transpired (after Massey has digressed about her passion for Frost, her theory that extroverts had simply conquered their shyness and the importance of having a room of one's own), wrote back saying thank you, but no. However, Birtwhistle and Massey might care to read her unpublished new novel? And maybe Massey might be interested in playing the heroine? Which is how Massey comes to be playing Edith Hope in the BBC's production on Sunday of *Hotel Du Lac*, adapted by Christopher Hampton from Brookner's elegant novel.

"It was an absolute gift from heaven", enthuses Massey. "The part of Edith is an absolute plum. We both thought the manuscript was brilliant. And when it was the 1984 Booker Prize it was like a fairy story. Then everyone was haggling for the rights, of course, and we'd already got them."

In *Hotel Du Lac*, Edith, a spinster writer of romantic fiction, is in social disgrace and has been bundled off by friends to a melancholy Swiss lakeside hotel where, it is hoped, she will reflect upon her recalcitrance. At the hotel she is drawn reluctantly into the lives of her fellow guests and into romance of a sort.

Massey points out that Edith is the quintessential 1980s career woman. "Like all Anita's heroines she is very much a middle-class woman of today. She's successful, independent, intelligent, witty and above all she is not ashamed to admit to the importance of romance in her life."

Here Massey claps her hands and gives an unexpectedly hearty chuckle. "I'm all for romance myself. Not that Edith has a wonderful speech in which she says: 'I cannot live without love: I cannot think or act or speak or write or even dream with any kind of energy in the absence of love. I feel excluded from the living world. I become cold, fish-like, immobile. I am afraid'. These are my own feelings exactly."

Then, anticipating impertinent questions about her romantic circumstances, she continues: "I believe that the single woman's greatest struggle is keeping optimistic. There is no romance in my life at present, alas. Oh, that there was. One still goes on hoping that one will walk into a room and he will be there. But it's largely a question of luck after one's twenties, isn't it? Yet one's energy and capacity for romance are just as strong as ever in mid-life. In fact there's a most wonderful line on this very topic in Anita's novel *Family and Friends*.

Adjusting rimless spectacles she reads: "To suppose that those who are sexually inactive are also sexually inarticulate is a grave mistake, but one that is made with disheartening frequency."

Quite so sighs Massey, adding that she occasionally experiences a dread of becoming spinsterish. She was married "for a brief space of time" as the age of 70 and made her acting debut at 17. Both times, she feels she was far too young.

Massey never discusses her marriage, and not many people realize she has a grown-up son, called David. He has made her swear not to invade his privacy. He would kill her, she says, if anything were written about him.

Offering me a tumbler of gin, Massey draws my attention to an oil painting hidden behind a drooping pot plant. "I did that when I learnt to paint while playing Gwen John. It's my first and last painting. As Edith I didn't, unfortunately, learn to write a novel, but I did get rather steeped in the role."

We filmed in Lacerne for three weeks and were bloody lucky with the weather. For two days it rained like I haven't seen rain, which was perfect for the damp, misty sequences. And then the sun shone. I had a wonderful turret room, blissfully quiet, with a balcony. I felt like Rappazel, No... I felt exactly like Edith. God knows what I'll become when I do my next part. I'm to be Gernil in David Hare's autumn production of *King Lear*, and I'm so excited, I could get up and dance."

Edith, in one of her most passionate speeches, declares: "My idea of absolute happiness is to sit in a hut garden all day, reading or writing, utterly safe in the knowledge that the person I love will come home to me in the evening — every evening". How does this compare to Massey's ideal? "Oh mine is saving friends, to dinner, followed perhaps by a little pop, I love cooking. I'm a huge Delia Smith fan."

"Incidentally", Massey remarks as I prepare to leave, "I must mention that Edith never sees herself as a victim. People have grown fed up with women as victims. The Jean Rhys woman belongs to the past. We don't have to be victims any more."

Val Hennessy

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THE TIMES DIARY

Flying spokesman

As British Airways strives to fly the flag to Northern Ireland on Monday despite the Loyalist protest strike, spare a thought for its head of public affairs, David Burnside. Ten years ago he was a familiar figure in the Protestant workers' 15-day general strike which toppled a power-sharing government. He cut his PR teeth as aide to William Craig, leader of the now vanished ultra-right Vanguard Movement. He stood in the 1982 Stormont Assembly elections against Ian Paisley. "I am no more embarrassed about my private political persuasions than my colleagues who support the SDP or the Conservatives," he said yesterday. "Unionism is a legitimate political force in the United Kingdom." But no, he would not say what he thinks of Monday's strike.

Garey-Jones

It was just too good to be true: a Communist with a party badge made by Carter. That is what we were told about the Spanish wife of Tony, when Tristram Garey-Jones, but I am now reliably informed that this is untrue. Far from being a Communist she is a Catholic. Our apologies to her and her husband for the distress this must have caused.

Inviting trouble

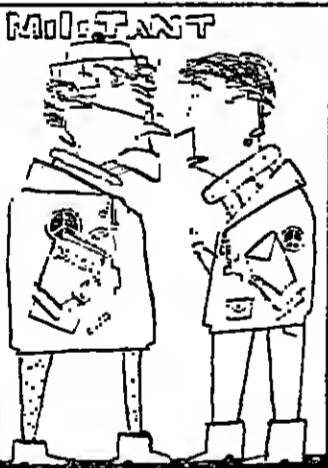
Police will be on hand tonight outside the Oxford Union as demonstrators gather to protest at the absence of a speaker from the African National Congress at a debate on South African economic sanctions. So incensed is the Oxford Anti-Apartheid Campaign that it is organizing a separate meeting in the City Hall with speakers from the ANC and Swapo. All of which vexes the union president, Jaya Wilson, herself of Sri Lanka extraction and founder-member of a sports boycott campaign. The ANC was the first outfit she invited to speak - but refused because the union was "elitist".

When we die, may it be in Waltham Forest, in north-east London. Listed in the telephone directory under "Libraries" is the local mortuary, while the two cemeteries come under "Recreation Services".

Pop star

As the disgraced Marcos skulks in Hawaii, a reader tells me of the time his glamorous wife Imelda visited their son, Ferdinand junior, at the £4,380-a-year Benedictine Worth Abbey School in West Sussex. Imelda was having a chat in the headmaster's study. "A loud pop was suddenly heard from the room, and Imelda's bodyguards stormed in, guns drawn. A lightbulb had blown..."

BARRY FANTONI



"The good news, Beryl, is that you can work past your retirement age. The bad news is that you've just been expelled!"

Foreign flood

Lambeth council, which plans to rename Streatham Baths the Mangaliso Sobakwe Pool after the Pan-African Congress founder, and a further 27 local landmarks after foreign worthies, has a further wheeze in store. Baylis Road - named after Lilian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic - will become Maurice Bishop Road, named after Grenada's late Communist leader. Indeed, so many local names are vanishing that the building with the name closest to home may soon be Alexandre Dumas Library.

Why was the Union Jack flying upside-down (the distress signal) above the Sadler's Wells Theatre yesterday? A plea to the City to save it from closure threats, director Stephen Remington explains.

No brief

Oxford will never be the same: Lord Goodman, defender of the famous for the past 50 years, tells me he is to retire this year as Master of University College, a post he has held since the mid-1970s. The good news is that he is writing his memoirs, from which he expects to make a fortune. "I have thought up about 17 titles already," he says, "everything from 'In On My Way' (because he is often late) to a biblical quotation, 'A Time for Laughter.' Goodman adds: 'It will be longer than the Encyclopaedia Britannica.' Revelations? I never remember anything confidential about anyone." I look forward to his definition of confidential.

PHS

Time to reform rent law

John Patten calls for a step-by-step repair of the damage to rented housing caused by legislation of the last 20 years

Rented housing needs a new direction. Public and private landlords must again be seen to be respectable; that means reform in both sectors.

Even to mention possible changes to the rent acts, it is believed, can be political death. But such timid thinking has caused the number of dwellings available for rent to shrink from 6.3 million to 1.7 million over the past 35 years.

No one wants to take away the rights of existing tenants, or wants tenants with new lettings to be liable to increases in rent or to eviction at the whim of an unscrupulous landlord. What is needed is a step-by-step process, rather like trade union law reform since 1979.

Building societies and other financial institutions, together with housing associations, can contribute in reviving private renting, given the right conditions.

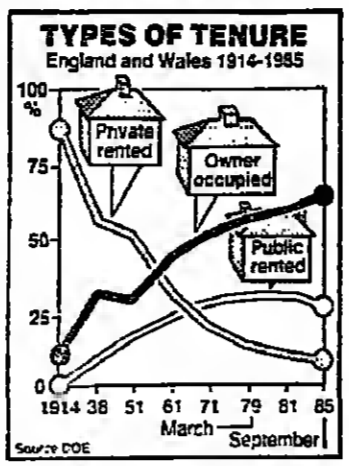
The aim should also be to make it possible for responsible landlords to secure a reasonable return from rented property. The supply will then increase and tenants themselves will benefit. It is

bizarre to have empty flats and houses next to people who are homeless.

This will work - to the benefit of the homeless, those moving jobs, and the young seeking their first job - only if the private rented sector can be insulated as much as possible from political swings. We must explore whether there is a basis for agreed reforms. We do a disservice to the whole community if we allow the private rented sector to continue to be a political football.

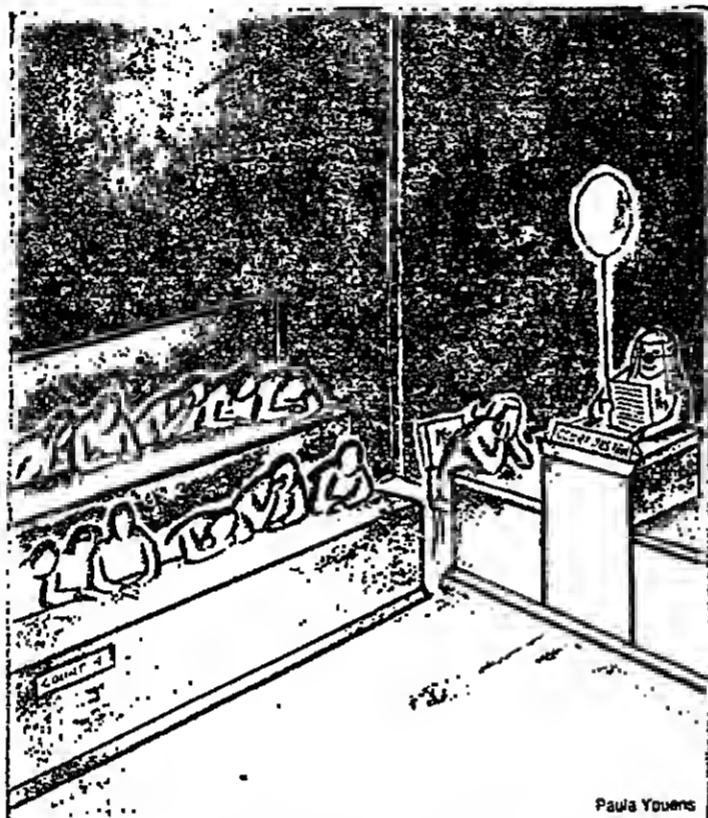
We also want to encourage a wide range of solutions to the problems of public rented housing. The sheer size of most municipal housing authorities is daunting. The average local housing authority now manages 12,000 dwellings; some have many more. Their management inevitably produces bureaucratic remoteness. There should be new man-

agement methods: decentralisation of local government housing departments, diversification, the transfer of management to local trusts, housing associations or tenant cooperatives. Private-sector resources and skills need to be



Bernard Levin

My verdict: silence outside the court



Paula Youens

a commendably pragmatic way: they behave like the most servile party hacks, and pretend they don't. The Lord Chancellor, however, is a judge, and for all the history that lies behind his dual function, I have never been able to see it as anything but an outrage. I now find myself in the rare position of agreeing entirely with Lord Hailsham. I am not particularly concerned about Judge Pickles, who seems quite capable of looking after himself (I will lay generous odds, if he is unfrocked, that he will shortly be found standing for Parliament under the banner of the Alliance); the prospect, however, that opens before us if Lord Hailsham or a successor to him should weaken on this point is so dreadful that it must be faced now.

Even as things stand, the amount and nature of irrelevant judicial comment from the bench, usually but not invariably in the form of *obiter dicta*, is enough to cause nightmares. How many litigants in divorce cases have sought a decree and received in addition (and sometimes instead) a detailed critique of their morals? How many convicted criminals have had to listen to a lecture as long as their sentence? How many

courtrooms have resounded with the combination of bees from judicial bonnets. Let loose in the knowledge that no apologist present will dare to take the swarm? But that is the situation now, and in court, what is proposed is that the judges should have the right to air their opinions up and down the land, to commit them to paper in the form of published articles, and to speak them on television and radio. Have you any idea of what would happen if the proposal were to be accepted? It would start with speeches at public events. Here, Mr Justice Curran will advocate the return of capital punishment; there, Judge Curran will denounce the idea of a Channel Tunnel; anon, Lord Justice Sauer will urge repatriation of Commonwealth immigrants; next, Judge Teapot will insist upon a complete reshaping of the educational system; sooner or later, Lord Chief Justice Lane will be heard demanding a specially heavy sentence for men convicted of rape who have pleaded not guilty.

Then, the newspapers. At first it will be confined to complex points of law and judicial reminiscences; but it will not stop there. In no time the judges will be foaming at



Schultz visibly pleased

the mouth about (or even from) fluoride, they will be insisting that compulsory seatbelts are an infringement of our liberties (or that they are not), they will be demanding the resignation of Cabinet ministers involved in Westland controversies, they will be criticising CND, the repertoire of the government to control public spending, the activities of the Militant Tendency, the EEC's common agricultural policy and Prince Charles's taste in architecture, dinner-jackets and slimming diets.

Next, it will be Dial-a-Judge. Just as politicians, eager to get themselves before the public, will answer any question from a reporter who telephones them, so the judges will be reported as saying what they think of the Post Office, Cower's cricket captaincy, Denis Thatcher's feelings about a possible third term for his spouse, the man who kept nine booby-constructors in his bedroom and Mary Quant's knickers.

But the full horror of the plan will be seen on television. They will infest *Question Time* and drive poor Robin into an early grave with their opinions; they will take walk-on parts as themselves, in sitcoms, like Harold Wilson; they will interview talking dogs and sing with Des O'Connor in Christmas specials; and, most dreadful of all these dreadful things, they will make puns, essay risqué jokes, fawn on pop-singers whose knuckles brush the ground as they walk, and ask Selina Scott, with a roguish smile, what she is doing after the show.

Stop this horror now, before it starts. However much and however often I have criticized judges, I have never wavered from my belief that a visibly impartial and independent system of law is crucial to a free society. But this includes an essential element of remoteness, even of inhumanity, in the judges and their work.

The only excuse for a judge with opinions is that he refrains from expressing them: the moment he steps into controversy, or even indicates that he has views, all respect for the law itself will collapse, as the public abruptly realizes that the august figure, wigged and robed, who embodies the rule of law and its truly vital function as the foundation of our liberties, is only a daft old geezer with funny clothes who thinks that pubs should be made illegal and that all homosexuals should have their whiskies cut off.

Having expressed unqualified support for Lord Hailsham, I may perhaps be permitted to offer him some advice. It is to sack Judge Pickles, *pour encourager les autres*, at once; the opinionated bencher will not suffer, for he will most likely be offered a book-contract with Sidgwick and Jackson for an advance of £100,000. But the cause of justice will be made more secure.

David Watt Even blacker and whiter

Time is running out for South Africa. How often one has seen that cliché. And yet how impossible to avoid it again in Johannesburg last week. A weight of impending thunder now hangs over the country and the locks of the approaching storm are spread all round the horizon.

It is not altogether easy to spot them from London because we are diverted by our historical perspective, and by wishful thinking. President Botha's speech at the end of last month seemed like a genuine advance. Who, we ask ourselves, would have predicted five years ago that the central prop of apartheid - the pass laws - would be knocked away by July 1, 1986? Surely this must herald the crumbling of the system? One more push from the international bankers may be necessary, but an era of a genuine dialogue between blacks and whites is about to begin.

There are quite a lot of South Africans, particularly in the business community, who are desperately trying to persuade themselves to see things in that light, and their spirits are buoyed up by the present good state of the economy.

Others simply don't choose to think about the future at all. The lush shopping centres of northern Johannesburg are full of sunburnt white motorists pushing their carts around without a care in the world and not a black in sight. At the Sandton Sun Hotel - an edifice of stunning vulgarity complete with a vast golden atrium, free-floating lifts, and cascading walls of water - two or three hundred teenagers were deposited from parental Mercedes for a club dance. They were apparently oblivious to the fact that a mile down the road, in the squalid township of Alexandra, the black population was picking up the bodies and broken glass after one of the worst riots of the last decade, and the security forces were still dragging schoolchildren off to detention.

Who wants to blame the white kids for enjoying themselves? Certainly not I. Nevertheless, Alexandra is a better indication of the real situation in South Africa than Sandton. That reality is the new polarization of black and white: after years of mere bitterness, people are actually beginning to hate each other. On the black side there is a mixture of mounting impatience, frustration and anger, particularly among the young. The prospective abolition of the pass laws has already been discounted. What matter are the remaining perennial grievances - terrible education and housing, high unemployment, constant police harassment. These are now allied to a much more explicit demand for political advance than ever before. The debate, in other words, has moved beyond apartheid to the fundamental question of power, and it is being conducted in much more violent terms than ever before.

A story told me by a black leader illustrates the point. A black post office repairman comes out of a house in Soweto, where he has

been mending a telephone, to find his van's tyres let down and a crowd of 18-year-olds standing around it. They demand to know why he is supporting the "system" by his work instead of boycotting it. He tries to explain that they themselves may need that telephone in an emergency. But in the middle of his protestations a brick hits him on the head and knocks him out cold. He is savagely kicked on the ground and left. A bystander fetches a doctor and he is eventually carried off to hospital, but meanwhile the good Samaritan has been badly beaten up for not leaving the victim to die.

Other pieces of evidence of the new mood abound. There are the horrifying burnings of suspected informers, the roaming gangs of 15-year-olds terrorising 10-year-olds into joining demonstrations, the trade union thugs beating up backsliders, the increasing difficulties of moderates like Bishop Tutu and Dr Motlale and above all the refusal of the ANC leadership in exile to try to moderate any of these trends.

On the white side, the militancy is not quite so dramatic, and I actually notice a new mood of resignation in some of my English friends: "Black majority rule will be here in 10 years. It will be pretty awful, but there's not much we can do except try to avoid a bloodbath and hope for the best."

The more general reaction has been a shift to the right and a hardening of resistance to change among the Afrikaans-speakers on whom the Nationalist government relies. The right-wing Conservative Party continues to make headway. There is general agreement that the security forces are out of effective political control; since they tend to be commanded by extreme right-wingers, they often seem deliberately intent on resisting compromise and causing the maximum of confrontation.

What is to bridge this widening gap? The abolition of the pass laws will not do it, nor will one year's moderate economic prosperity. The orderly process of black advancement and constitutional evolution which old-fashioned moderates espouse will not serve any longer either.

If the country is not to slip into more and more violence, into circumstances in which the long-term future cannot possibly be settled on equitable terms, the South African government will have to start negotiating very soon about the sharing of power. That implies not just facing (as President Botha has still not faced) the prospect of losing complete control of the country, but also allowing representative black leaders to emerge with whom negotiation can take place. This means, in other words, releasing Nelson Mandela and other detainees and unbanning the ANC.

It is a measure of the pace of events that these moves, which even a year ago would have been regarded as extravagant, have now become the minimum price of staying on top of the precipice. Whether they can possibly be made is a question I will discuss next week.

moreover... Miles Kington

A pursuivant without peer

Through the vineyards the weary traveller walked, up the dusty track between fields of grapes. He had never seen grapes growing before but he paid them no heed, so weary was he from his long journey, a journey which had started several days before at Heathrow Airport and was now coming to a close thousands of miles away in New Zealand.

He knocked on the front door. Then he rang the bell. Then he hit the door as hard as he could, but no one came. Finally, a man leant out of an upstairs window.

"What the hell do you want? I'm trying to get some kit."

"Are you Angus Mackenzie, master of Ballantrae Wines?" cried the traveller.

"Yes I am, and if you're from the excise people you can clear off." The traveller permitted himself a brief smile. "Not quite, Mr Mackenzie, I am from the College of Arms in London, England. Men call me Pursuivant Herald Extraordinary."

"Do they now? And what do they call you for short?"

"Well, Purs, actually," admitted the traveller, "but that's not the point. I am here to tell you that you are next in line to the title of Earl of Ardblair and the Forests. Now that the late Earl is dead, you are the 11th Earl! My Lord," he added.

Some of us, given such a message, would feel an unwilling awe. Others might laugh in disbelief, tinged with pleasure. Angus Mackenzie did neither. He had a beard attack and died.

neaps, though he had never seen neaps growing before and hoped he never would again. Quite frankly, he was getting fed up with visiting far-flung outposts of the Commonwealth. He hoped the new Earl would be young and live a long time.

"You are Fergus Mackenzie?" he said to the young man hammering in a post by the croft.

"I am, and if you're from the excise about the neap wine, I can explain everything," said Fergus.

"No, no," said Purs, wearily, wondering why all heirs dabbled in alcohol. "I am from the College of Arms in London, to tell you that you have inherited a title. You are the 12th Earl of Ardblair! My Lord." "No kidding!" said the young man. "How come?"

"The previous Earl, who was a wine-grower in New Zealand, has just died, and you have inherited the title." "Great!" said the Earl. "Do I get the vineyard as well?"

"Well, I suppose, seeing you are the next in line, yes. I hadn't thought about that, yes. I am sure you do," said Pursuivant who in fact had no idea.

"Great!" said Fergus. "I could do with a vineyard. Tell you what, I'll take the grapes, but you can keep the title. I renounce it. It's all yours." "You what?" said Purs. "Oh, my God."

Up in the lift of the 15-storey tower block in London travelled the weary traveller. He got out at the tenth floor and went in through the door marked "Untraceable Earldoms". He slammed his briefcase on the desk and said to the man behind it, "I resign! I've had it up to here with being Pursuivant Herald Extraordinary. Now it's all to do again."

Through the pine trees the weary traveller climbed, up the stony track towards the lone croft. He had been travelling for days, on a journey which had started in New Zealand on a remote grape farm and was now about to finish in the outer reaches of Perthshire. Pursuivant was about to come face to face with the 12th Earl of Ardblair, one Fergus Mackenzie. He walked between fields of

Luck or skill in Reagan 'triumph'?

Washington. The Philippines had long threatened to be the Reagan administration's nemesis. It is now seen by many here as one of President Reagan's foreign policy triumphs. Coupled with the recent ousting of President Duvalier of Haiti, it has drawn widespread applause across the political spectrum, and raised hopes that a new sure-footedness may prompt Washington to look afresh at other unsavoury regimes such as Chile's.

Delight at the Philippines denouement - evident on the face of George Shultz, the secretary of state, as he announced recognition of the Aquino government - is that much keener because of the unexpectedly swift and bloodless outcome.

The administration certainly had enough warning of the impending crisis, and had made exhaustive contingency plans. But there was always the fear that however well coordinated reaction here was to swiftly moving events in Manila, the US would be unable to influence their course; that opposition forces would become stridently anti-American, as in Iran and Nicaragua.

Many things worked in Washington's favour: America's special relationship with the former colony, giving it an extraordinary influence over Philippine politics; unusual unanimity in Congress and the White House on what should be done; close knowledge of the Philippines and its people.

coupled with a common language and many shared democratic values built up over 100 years; an unusual interest among ordinary Americans, generating more television coverage than most other foreign policy issues; the existence of a stable Philippine middle-class, an influential Catholic church, and the generally non-violent nature of the Filipinos themselves.

To its credit, the administration - although emotionally tilted in favour of a strong, friendly anti-communist - had begun to press Marcos insistently over the past six months to make those reforms that the US knew from experience were essential if democracy was to



Schultz visibly pleased

survive and the communist insurrection be defeated. It was American pressure that pushed Marcos to call the election that led to his downfall. And apart from a clumsy mistake by Reagan in attributing election fraud to both sides (which may in itself have galvanized the Aquino forces), the president's advisers kept their balance, kept up the pressure and finally, dragging Reagan with them, told Marcos what he could not see from inside his palace: that he had to go.

The administration was particularly skilful in preventing clashes between Marcos and his military opposition by warning him that if he attacked General Ramos and defence minister Enrile, at a time when he could have done so, he would lose all American military aid. That gave time for the momentum of desertions to build, so that Marcos was left isolated.

The suggestion that Washington called the tune is a sensitive one, both here and in Manila. A senior US official was quick to insist on the day Marcos fled that "The Philippines are not an American colony. We couldn't snap our fingers and ordain events." Diplomatically that may be true, but the US did ordain events in a way it has rarely been able to, in any other large country, without direct military intervention.

The US was therefore drawn into the crisis until it became a key factor in finding the solution. But

relief that things turned out well conceals the new and very real danger that they may yet go wrong. Washington is still more heavily engaged than it would like to be.

Parallels are being drawn with what happened in Vietnam after the assassination of President Diem, when one pro-American government succeeded another, and none could quell the communist insurgency. Could the US, in its eagerness to help Mr Aquino, get sucked in with offers of weapons, military advisers and eventually US troops? The US will certainly be under heavy pressure to help her overcome the daunting problems facing her nation.

Negotiating an exit for dictators is a tricky business. Washington is already being criticized by France especially for keeping Duvalier out while letting Marcos in. The Reagan administration is not now looking for any more refugee dictators. Hopes that the US, in its satisfaction that for once its good intentions were not misunderstood, will pursue more vigorous policies towards Chile, Paraguay, South Africa, South Korea and elsewhere seem premature.

The Philippines and Haiti were special cases, where American interests were especially engaged. Unless he completely loses control at home, General Pinochet of Chile has nothing to fear from the Marcos example.

Michael Binyon

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THE ARTS

Television

Curious class of pursuit

When the SDP was launched under the gourmet auspices of Roy Jenkins, it became known in some circles as the Wine and Cheese Party. The consistency that The Fishing Party (BBC2) would like to represent is somewhat different: an identikit of their ideal citizen would be a rather obese Empire loyalist who was properly spanked in childhood.

Martin Cropper

Cinema

Invention and skill blossom out on a shoestring budget

Out of Order (15) Cannon Tottenham Court Road

Car Trouble (18) Cannon Oxford Street, Fanton Street

Shaker Run (15) Cannon Oxford Street

Forbidden (PG) Cannon Baker Street

In Out of Order the disaster movie meets the Kammerpiel. Its Swiss-born director Carl Schenkel claims that he arrived at his subject by asking himself what would be the cheapest kind of story to shoot. He came up with the idea of four people trapped in a lift, and from this developed the story with the writer Frank Göhre, who has since turned it into a novel.

Stagecoach) a reserved and respectable little man turns out to be a fleeing embezzler. There are no surprises, but Schenkel sustains the interest with progressive character revelation and well-managed suspense sequences including all the traditional devices of fraying ropes, disintegrating machinery and hand-to-hand struggles above the abyss of the lift shaft.



Collapse of confident superiority: Götz George (left) as the executive struggles with Wolfgang Kieling's embezzler in Out of Order

(David Green, a new arrival from television) and players all convey a deep distaste for the folly, deception and meanness of this couple. They are represented by two ordinarily sympathetic players, Julie Walters, her grimacing getting more and more like Hylda Baker, and Ian Charleson, who approaches comedy with a deadpan style which might do well in a kindlier sort of film.

possible variation of the car-chase has been explored in the 18 years since Bullitt introduced the tediously durable vogue, and the director Bruce Morrison cannot contribute anything new. In the very last moments of the film however he earns points for sheer extravagance with a succession of vehicles hurling themselves leaping-like off a cliff edge, to explode on the rocks below.

David Robinson

Jazz Patterns of relish

George Russell Logan Hall

Getting on for 40 years after he opened his account by writing a couple of sizzling pieces for Dizzy Gillespie's legendary bebop big band, George Russell is making his first appearances in Britain on a tour which began to an ovation in Bloomsbury on Wednesday evening.

Richard Williams

Rosie" before alighting, astonishingly, on a piece inspired by a recent record by the New York scratch disc-jockey, Grandmaster Flash. Drums crashed, a guitar howled and synthesizers raged, taking us far from the crisp minimalism of Russell's celebrated Jazz Workshop of the Fifties — until the expressionistic tonal distortions of Chris Briscoe's bass clarinet pierced the swirling murk.

Opera Enjoyably breezy

Il barbiere di Siviglia Covent Garden

The spacious severity with which Michael Hampe's production endows Il barbiere di Siviglia at Covent Garden might seem more suited to Mozart's enlightened humanity than to Rossini's artifice, but it does provide an appropriate context for the new Rosina of Kathleen Kuhlmann.

colour in "Una voce poco fa", and a couple of ill-advised fortes. But then, quite suddenly, the interpretation settled down, and Miss Kuhlmann showed the advantage of making Rosina a child of her time: a Romantic, capable of the most sensuous strains (notably those addressed to "Don Alonso" in the less so scene) and behaving with seriousness. She retains the option of sheer display, and trickles her voice effortlessly through the ornamentation, but her Rosina is carried forward entirely by feeling and not by flirtatiousness.



Feeling rather than flirting: Kathleen Kuhlmann's sensuous yet serious Rosina

was singing with greater consistency, and it became easier to enjoy his interpretation of the count as a sensitive young man, a very fit companion for this Rosina and this Figaro. Enzo Dara returns as a Bartolo whose possessiveness is, for once, more grim than foolish, and John Tomlinson is again the splendid Don Basilio. Another refugee from the Coliseum Moses, Jane Eaglen, makes a happy house debut as Berta, throwing off her aria with lively warmth and confidence. Alberto Zedda, conducting his own edition, brings the wind forward to enjoyably breezy but closely detailed effect.

Paul Griffiths

RPO/Thomas Festival Hall

Like many conductors with glossy international careers, Michael Tilson Thomas's style is nothing if not visually extrovert; unlike many of them, he is also an outstanding musician. His reading of Mahler's Fifth Symphony was at all points cogent, intelligent and articulated with splendid vividness. The last movement brought the house down, and deservedly so.

Just how good an orchestra the RPO are at the moment was demonstrated by the degree of control of phrasing and

Concert

ensemble which Thomas demanded, and which was almost always forthcoming; a startlingly quick tempo for the Rondo-Finale in no way unsettled them. The Adagio section sounded all the more beautiful for Thomas's refusal to sentimentalize the music, and the wonderful central Scherzo crackled with life from start to finish, with plenty of heroic horn-playing and genuine magic in the quieter moments.

All this was in particularly welcome contrast to a first half which was, shall we say, a strange experience. Ivo Pogorelic's approach to the solo piano part of Franck's Symphonic Variations was relatively free of eccentricities and

featured a nice range of tonal colours, complemented by the silky accompaniment which Thomas drew from the RPO's strings in the slow central section. But obviously Pogorelic's intention was simply to get extraneous things like accompaniments out of the way.

With Thomas safely off the stage and the orchestra helplessly marooned on it, he proceeded to deliver not just one but two encores, neither of them in any way exceptionally played. Pogorelic presumably thinks he is some kind of genius. On this evidence he has some growing up to do.

Malcolm Hayes

On the Black Hill Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea

Can theatre avoid romanticizing the peasant life? No freezing cowsheds, mind no appalling stench. On the Black Hill, adapted for the stage by Charles Watkin from Bruce Chatwin's award-winning novel, is a fairly precious, fairly late contribution to the Hovisland nostalgia-boom: corduroys and braces, derry-down singing, collarless shirts, simple country folk.

The Jones family in their farmhouse smack on the Wales/England border are a quasi-Laurentian bunch: elemental Dad, middle-class Mum, hoity-toity daughter and identical twin sons, one of whom shows early his predilection for baking cakes and dressing in Mum's clothes: Dad, unamused, is more concerned with an acrimonious boundary dispute.

Martin Cropper

Theatre

achieves a measure of dignity in Act II, with the welcome arrival of an historical framework. Two set pieces at the beginning and end of the First World War — a church-hall recruiting drive and a desperately ironic Hail the Heroes fete complete with cripples — bracket the story of twin Benjamin's maltreatment as a fundamentalist conchie; meanwhile, on another part of the stage, twin Lewis (excepted for the duration for essential farm work) winces in telegraphic sympathy with every thump of the bullies' fists.

Andy Rivers and Sion Tudor Owen play the identically dressed twins as a kind of unimpaired double act, mostly blank and undemonstrative though at times bursting into well-observed disharmony. John Surman turns in a nicely contrasted pair of preachers, the singing and musical accompaniment are finely rendered, and Brian Williams's lighting is resourceful. But Jamie Garven's measured production reeks of sincerity, and sincerity, one might argue, belongs to Arts Centres and not to Art.

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BASE
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RATES

WALL STREET

New York (AP-DJ) - Share prices edged modestly higher in heavy trading yesterday as the blue chip index received a strong helping hand from the shares of Eastman Kodak and Union Carbide.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 4.24 at 1,696.90 after spending a volatile day swinging on both sides of Tuesday's closing level.

The finish fell short of a new record and the 1,700 mark, which traders said is proving to be a fairly strong resistance level.

The index made two pushes above the 1,700 mark again yesterday, reaching a session high of about 1,704 with 45 minutes left in trading.

Table with columns: Date, Index, Change, High, Low, Open, Close. Includes Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, etc.

record and the 1,700 mark, which traders said is proving to be a fairly strong resistance level.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Volume. Lists various stocks like IBM, AT&T, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns: City, Rate, Change. Lists London, Frankfurt, Zurich, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns: Instrument, Rate, Change. Lists Treasury bills, Euro money deposits, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns: Term, Rate, Change. Lists 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table with columns: Country, Rate, Change. Lists Canada, Mexico, etc.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Commodity, Price, Change. Lists Rubber, Sugar, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: Trust Name, Offer, Change, Yield. Lists various investment trusts like Fidelity, etc.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Trust Name, Offer, Change, Yield. Lists various financial trusts like Sun Life, etc.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with columns: Trust Name, Offer, Change, Yield. Lists various unit trusts like British American, etc.

UNIT TRUST MANAGERS

Table with columns: Manager Name, Offer, Change, Yield. Lists various unit trust managers like British American, etc.

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Quotations refer to Wednesday's trading. If a dividend is paid, it will be shown in the column headed 'Dividend'.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily price moves stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year Price or Div. Includes sections for ELECTRICALS, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, INDUSTRIALS A-D, and BRITISH FUNDS.

Week's Dividend Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: Day, Dividend, Total. Shows weekly dividend breakdown.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table listing short-term investments with columns for No., Company, and Price.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing medium-term investments with columns for No., Company, and Price.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing long-term investments with columns for No., Company, and Price.

UNDATED

Table listing undated investments with columns for No., Company, and Price.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing index-linked investments with columns for No., Company, and Price.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table listing bank discount rates with columns for No., Company, and Price.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Equities surge

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Feb 24. Dealings end March 10. Contango Day March 10. Settlement Day, March 17. *Forward Bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Summary table for 1986 stock exchange prices with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for BREWERIES with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for BUILDINGS AND ROADS with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for FINANCE AND LAND with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for FOODS with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for CHEMICALS, PLASTICS with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for CINEMAS AND TV with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for DRAPERY AND STORES with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for INDUSTRIALS A-D with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for HOTELS AND CATERERS with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for INDUSTRIALS A-D (continued) with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 Claims required for +47 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table for OVERSEAS TRADERS with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for PROPERTY with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for SHIPPING with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for SHOES AND LEATHER with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for TEXTILES with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for TOBACCO with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for OIL with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for MOTOR VEHICLES with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

Table for AIRCRAFT with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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Table for OIL (continued) with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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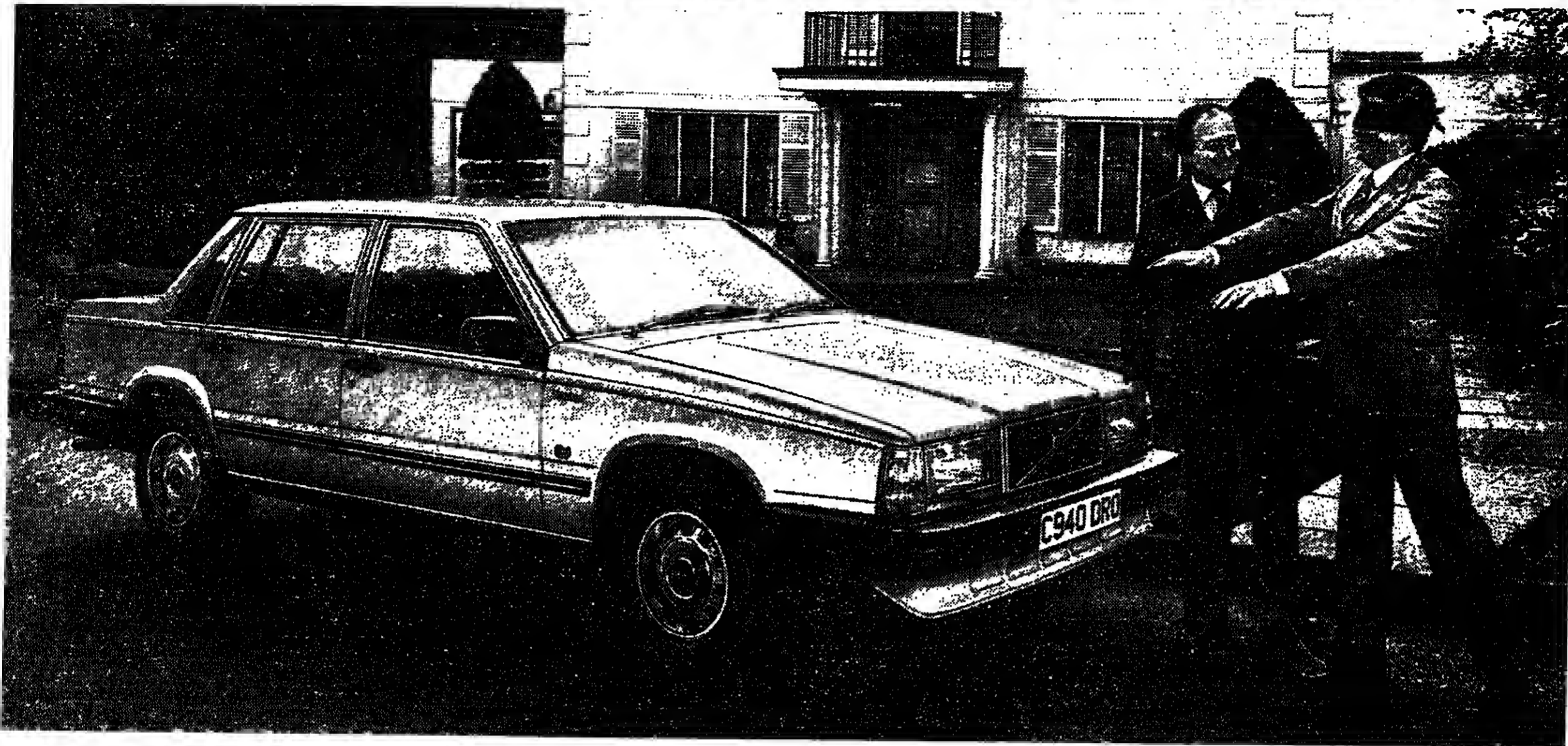
Table for OIL (continued) with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, %.

© In dividend & Ex as b. Forecast dividend & corrected price from payment passed. Price at settlement is bid for company. Pre-market figures in Ex long or share split. Tax-free Price requested for late dividend. No significant data.

Harvard Security advertisement with logo and text.

السؤال الأول

IF YOU COULD TEST-DRIVE IT BLINDFOLD, WOULD YOU GUESS WHAT CAR IT WAS?



We wouldn't recommend this experiment for real, but it's an interesting hypothesis nevertheless. Imagine it.

The salesman guides you into the driver's seat. It feels reassuringly firm, yet so comfortable it could have been made specially for you.

(In fact, it has an adjustable lumbar support and a 12-position height and rake adjustment.)

The door closes with an effortless clunk.

"IT'S A MERCEDES?"

Good guess, but the wrong one.

Somehow, you can sense the feeling of spaciousness inside the car.

Your hands fall naturally onto the steering wheel, and your feet onto the pedals.

You switch on the ignition. The engine fires instantaneously, dying to a barely audible purr.

"A DAIMLER, PERHAPS?"

Perhaps, yes. But actually, no.

As you pull away from the kerb (don't worry, the salesman gives you directions) you notice the lightness and precision of the power steering.

You accelerate briskly through the gears, enjoying the smooth power of the engine.

This car is no slouch.

"IT'S ONE OF THOSE BIG BMW'S?"

No it isn't.

The salesman, feeling rather pleased with himself, helps you with a few clues.

He tells you about the car's welded box-

steel construction, and the 9 coats of paint and primer that protect the bodywork.

He mentions the 13-outlet heating and ventilation system, the 17.2 cubic foot boot, the central locking.

You can feel the power-assisted brakes for yourself.

"A JAGUAR?"

Wrong again.

Against your better judgement, you start to lower your sights a bit. You did, after all, mention a price limit of £11,000.

But what car of that sort of price could give you this sort of ride?

Unable to contain your curiosity any longer, you pull into the kerb and pull off the blindfold.

"A VOLVO! I KNEW I COULDN'T AFFORD IT!"

Yes, it's a Volvo. The 740 GL, to be precise. And yes, you can afford it.

Amazingly, the car you thought could have been a Mercedes costs only £10,271.

You turn to the salesman sitting beside you. In one hand, he has an order form for a brand new Volvo 740GL.

In the other, a pen.

Despite his presumptuousness, you sign.

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FLEET SERVICES

Ford's SH

FOCUS

FLEET CARS/2



An S-class by Mercedes-Benz, which makes more cars a year than Austin Rover; the Legend, Honda's partnership car with the Rover 800; a Vauxhall Cavalier and the underrated Austin Maestro

Success in the executive car sector is largely a matter of image. Whatever a driver may say about their choice being the best car for their purpose within the price bracket allocated, the most important factor influencing their choice remains the car's rating as a status symbol.

The aim is for the right image

costing a little under £9,000. The most expensive, the 2.5 litre V6 turbo, costs £18,700. The car they all have to beat remains the Ford Granada.

An excellent test of a car's standing is the way its owner refers to it. Ask owners of Mercedes, BMWs or Jaguars what they drive and you get the straightforward reply, "A Mercedes...a BMW...a Jaguar".

The car they all have to beat is still the Ford Granada, now more technically advanced

to £18,924 for the exciting four wheel drive version of the flagship Granada Scorpio 2.8 litres.

Table with 3 columns: Ford Granada 2.8 Ghia, Rover 2500 Vandienplas, Volvo 740 GLT. Rows include Price (ex VAT), Engine (cc), Consumption (mpg), Front wing, Clutch unit, Major service time, Insurance group.

*** Automatic Transmission

injected engine is a beauty and in such a light car provides exhilarating performance. Thanks to its rear wheel drive layout it is also extremely safe and stable.

One of my personal favourites is the BMW 528i automatic. This is the mid-range Five Series body powered by the robust 2.8 litre six cylinder engine which also appears in the much bigger Seven Series models.

The German thoroughness that impressed the British

So long dominated by the Ford Cortina, the medium-car sector - crucial for winning fleet business - has, in the last two years, become the undisputed province of Vauxhall's mid-range model, the Cavalier.

Rolls-Royce still faces a rocky road

The resilience of the luxury car market, in a period of economic recession, may continue to amaze those who reckon without man's propensity for conspicuous consumption.

LUXURY CLASS table with columns for Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, Mercedes S100SEL, and Daimler Double Six. Rows include Price (ex VAT), Engine (cc), Consumption (mpg), Front wing, Clutch unit, Major service time, Insurance group.

nothing had happened. Rolls was suddenly caught out in 1982 when sales dropped by a quarter. The company blamed high interest rates but there was also the suspicion that it was no longer a useful car.

The Spirit is not expected to stay in production for 10 years as the Shadow did. The company is already working on modifications to the huge 6.7-litre V8 engine.

The German thoroughness that impressed the British

biological barrier Vauxhall was able to impress its customers with just how good a car the Cavalier was. It took off with the arrival of the Cavalier in 1981.

MEDIUM CLASS table with columns for Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6L, Ford Sierra 1.6L, and Austin Montego 1.6L. Rows include Price (ex VAT), Engine (cc), Consumption (mpg), Front wing, Clutch unit, Major service time, Insurance group.

with the Cavalier or Sierra would take a lot of convincing that they should change to a new and unknown model from a company not exactly renowned for the reliability of its products.

Ford's small wonder is a big hit

Ford's dominance of the small-medium sector is simply expressed in figures. In 1985, for the second year running, the Escort sold twice as many units (157,269) as its nearest rival, the Vauxhall Astra (76,553).

SMALL/MEDIUM CLASS table with columns for Ford Escort 1.3L, Vauxhall Astra 1.3L, and Austin Maestro 1.3L. Rows include Price (ex VAT), Engine (cc), Consumption (mpg), Front wing, Clutch unit, Major service time, Insurance group.

consumption figures a little on the high side, all doubts were soon swept aside. In any case the introduction of the Orion in the middle of 1983 offered a booted alternative to buyers who had still not taken to the hatchback.

have a similar impact. Certainly it does not lack in boot space. Now nearly three years old, the Maestro continues to sell disappointingly for a car that on technical merit should be doing much better.

New F.O.C.U.S. (FUEL OPERATIONS CONTROL & USAGE SYSTEM) makes the Esso Chargecard even more flexible. See it all at Stand number GS16 Fleet News Motor Show, 4, 5, 6 March 1986.

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Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

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FOCUS

Once a radio was an extra and then it would be of low quality. Now you may be offered a cassette player too; in a hire car possibly even a cellular system

Alive with the sound of motoring

Ten years ago one of the more attractive features of Japanese cars was that almost every one came with a radio fitted as standard. In contrast, most British and European cars just had a trim-covered hole in the fascia.

This was the seed of a revolution which, today, sees more than 90 per cent of UK-produced cars fitted with some form of in-car entertainment (ICE); at least a radio and, in the upper echelons of the market, electronic-stereo, AM/FM, tape-playing combination sets. In a total market worth £175 million at trade values, line-fit radio and cassette players account for about half the units sold and it is a market still growing at 10 per cent annually.

Used for some time as an added-value model step marker, — basic models had no radio, the mid-range was endowed with a manual tuner and at the top end a push-button radio/cassette player became the norm — in-car entertainment has now come of age. There is a feeling that you can't sell a car in the fleet or retail sectors without some box of tricks in that fascia hole.

Vauxhall has led the way, putting radios and combination units into Cavalier and Astra at a time when their fleet fortunes were riding high. Peugeot Talbot, Ford and Austin Rover have been quick to follow. Line-fit ICE-makers are few and far between.

Now, Motorola has lost the Austin

Rover business. Philips is the emergent giant, having just scooped Austin Rover to add to its Peugeot Talbot and Vauxhall portfolios. With plants in France, West Germany and Singapore, Philips is the world-leading producer of ICE equipment. Philips has even concluded a deal with Mitsubishi, itself a maker of in-car units, to supply sets for Colt cars.

Ford is switching all models to radios and combination units made by its own Canadian electronics operation. Japanese Clarion is the only other maker with a significant foothold. Part-owned by Nissan Clarion appears in such awesomely British products as Jaguar and Range Rover. Until recently this wholesale change to include radios and tape players in the standard feature line-up was something of a cynical exercise by car makers. A two-waveband, monaural, manually-tuned radio bought at knockdown prices and installed with little regard to acoustics was what the Japanese had offered and what British-car buyers were given.

Consumers comparing with high street models could see smaller, if not the same, models on the shelves at discounted prices from £30 to £100.

The climate is changing fast, under four big influences. Drivers are demanding better units to while away long hours at the wheel and avail themselves of the real benefits of traffic information broadcasts in avoiding snarl-ups.

For the car makers, equipment is coming down in price in real terms. New technology brings three-waveband digital electronic units into the buying frame. And now that ICE is a standard rather than a bolt-in afterthought, it is worth calling in audio-engineers at the design stage to site speakers correctly and iron-out interference, suppression, higgs. Finally, changes in benefit taxation have given company drivers, now paying a substantial part of the annual running costs, a far greater say in what they drive and the gear that is fitted in it. Among fleets where the driver is given a budget to buy to, trading down to a lower-priced car and then spending the balance on selected accessories, including far better sound systems than any maker currently installs, is an accepted practice.

No one has been more thorough in the customizing of a sound system to its top-notch models than Renault.

plus the cost of speakers, aerials and fittings.

The 25 Turbo, Espace and 11 Electronique feature a tailored high-power, multi-speaker system with remote controls at the steering wheel by Philips. Says Simon Turner, UK car audio sales and marketing manager for the Anglo-Dutch company: "More and more, we are in at the design stage to position the speakers correctly, specify the units and obtain better audio results".

Ford is not far behind. Having consolidated its European electrical and electronics operations divisions at new headquarters and laboratories in Basildon, Essex, it is putting substantial effort into the design of new sound systems for cars throughout its range.

The first fruits are three electronic units built to high performance standards for various model levels in Orion, Escort, Sierra and Granada 1986 updates.

As new models and updates come along, all Fords will be given the once-over for audio performance as well as receive the Ford rear-window heater element, aerial, now on the Escort, Orion and Granada.

It is a revolution which has undoubtedly shown benefits for all types of drivers. Though car prices certainly reflect elements of the more costly equipment they now contain, reasonable quality in-car sounds has been achieved at a fraction of the cost of equipment on the general market.

David J. Rowlands



Sounding out: Peter Sauter of ITM Offshore, the first Hertz leasing customer to have a car phone fitted under a Hertz-National Radiophone arrangement and, below, using a VDU to assess a vehicle's "lifetime cost"



Private mobile radio on line at last in Britain

Since early last year, the options available in mobile telecommunications have improved beyond recognition. The two competing cellular-telephone networks, Cellnet and Vodafone, have entered service and Britain is on the verge of a rapid growth in private mobile radio (PMR).

In particular, we are awaiting the granting of one or more licences for national trunked radio networks, and further licences for additional services in a number of the big urban conurbations. In recent years, particularly in the London area, overcrowding and lack of an adequate number of radio channels has prevented the growth of PMR.

With PMR systems, a radio channel is allocated to a user, either exclusively or shared with a number of others. Trunked systems have a number of channels which are "pooled" and shared by several users. When one of them wants to initiate a call, he or she is allocated the next free channel. The advantage is that trunked systems can support a far greater number of users than the traditional systems. This is because any particular user will only want to occupy the radio channel for a very small proportion of time and for much of the time it is sitting idle and is free to be used by any other user.

However, the basic choice that a prospective user faces when looking at the alternatives available depends on whether or not there is a need for direct communication with the public switched telephone network (PSTN) or whether the need is just to keep in contact with a "closed user group". Some companies need to maintain the best contact possible with staff out on the road, but do not need access to anyone else. Others, at the other end of the scale, want to ensure that their executives are always within reach of a public telephone.

PMR, sometimes known as despatcher radio because it is widely used to despatch a taxi or service mechanic to the next call, is generally used to pass a specific message. Typically, when a customer telephones the service centre, the despatcher decides who is the most appropriate individual to handle the task and then, having allocated the task, passes on the customer's request. Messages mostly radiate outwards from the centre and there is little need to carry on a conversation. Thus it is used in a totally different manner from a cellular radio which provides a telephone wherever it is needed.

Cellular radio provides a portable connection to the PSTN. It enables a user to make or receive telephone calls within the service area. Covering at present about three-quarters of the country and growing rapidly, each telephone has its own unique number so cellular should not be confused with cordless telephones which are, in effect, roving extensions to normal fixed telephones and simply allow freedom of movement around the house and garden.

The instruments can be hand-portable operating from self-contained batteries or static mounted in which case they are larger, more powerful units operating from the vehicle's battery. In a car, 15 is offered for heavy models to enable a user to be readily transferred from the vehicle to another. In addition, the Talkman from Mobira (and available for both Vodafone and Cellnet) can be removed rapidly from a vehicle and have external battery pack and antenna attached so that it can be used as a transportable.

The number of cellular subscribers is growing rapidly and their numbers will be approaching 100,000 by the year end. Following initial shortages of supply, it is now a very competitive market with budget-priced sets being offered. Even though these provide the same access to facilities fundamental to the network. Such as call forwarding, they are basic units having fewer memories. No facility to prevent unauthorised use etc. In addition, they are not suitable for the hands-free option — valuable if it is necessary to answer the phone while the car is in motion.

While Vodafone and Cellnet networks will continue to increase in coverage and in the number of subscribers, the increasing competition will not make it any easier for the dealers.

These range in size from organizations providing national coverage down to small firms operating in just one locality.

There are benefits in economies of scale where, for example, administrative overheads in billing can be kept in check by computerized systems and, rightly or wrongly, many companies will feel happier to entrust installation to a large supplier.

They recognize that had installation will, as well as providing poor performance, reduce the resale value of the vehicle by leaving unsightly holes and damage once the set has been removed.

By its very nature, cellular radio can be tried out on a pilot scale, or with even just one set, before making a major commitment to equip the whole fleet and integrating cellular radio into the company's communications strategy. On the other hand, PMR is just on the threshold of its major growth.

Not only do new radios allow messages to be broadcast across the whole fleet of vehicles, they allow the controller to send out calls selectively to sub-fleets.

These new-generation sets are ideal for use on trunked networks and their control units are no larger than an ordinary car radio, fitting conveniently into a small service van.

So at the same time as providing management with the benefits of improved efficiency, PMR can help staff to reduce the amount of time they waste on a voidable and unnecessary journey.

Even before carrying out trials, areas can be identified where improved communication between staff on the move and the office would be cost-effective.

Adrian J. Morant
European editor, Telephone Engineer & Management



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Do you ever hanker for those bygone days of travel?

The days when the Grand Tour meant rather more than "if it's Tuesday it must be Rome"?

Then allow us to introduce the new Belmont. A stylish saloon from Vauxhall. The moment you enter the Belmont you'll notice its unusually high level of appointments.

The front seatbelts, for instance, can be individually altered for height and driving position.

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But in any form, the Belmont's piece de resistance is its boot. The largest in its class, it boasts a mammoth capacity of 19.4 cu. ft,

easily accessible thanks to a low loading lip. And thanks to 60/40 split folding rear seats, you can carry passengers at the same time as transporting lengthy loads.

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Seven in all. With three trim levels and four engine variants.

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Why not book yourself a maiden voyage?

The new Vauxhall Belmont. From £6,210 to £8,095.

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FOOTBALL: ISRAEL MANAGER HAS HIGH HOPES FOR ROBSON'S MEN IN MEXICO

Praise in the promised land for England's midfield composure

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Joe Mirimovich believes that England could win the World Cup this summer. The manager of Israel, who is about to lose his position after failing to qualify for the finals, acted as an amicable diplomat earlier this week, but he was not merely offering a warm farewell as he gave his opinion at Ben Gurion airport on Wednesday evening.

competent in the air so the approach was ineffective. I appreciate that English crowds like excitement and goal-mouth incidents but that method will not win World Cups and especially in the heat and at the height of Mexico.

Robson's comeback bordered on the sensational. It was reasonable for the England manager, Bobby Robson, later to compare his heavy influence to that of Platini's on the fate of France.

(Wilkins himself admits that he is not yet completely comfortable with their partnership), there can be few doubts that they form England's most productive unit.

Ireland's organization is a bane to the opposition

By David Miller

It was, L'Equipe said truthfully, a caricature of a match. Yet French players and commentators managed to extract some satisfaction from the frost-bound goalless draw against Northern Ireland on Wednesday, the Irish are well entitled to do likewise.

It is now seven matches since Northern Ireland conceded a goal, and they have drawn their last three matches in Bucharest, London and Paris, which not a few fans would be glad to do.

McDonald and Donaghy perform to such a level without being either violent or underhand. McDonald, given the advantage of all defenders on Wednesday evening of being able to face the ball against attackers vainly trying to turn with it, was again outstanding for his positional judgement.

Arthur Cox, the Derby County manager, could face a charge of bringing the game into disrepute over remarks he allegedly made to the Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper, Martin Hodge, after the 1-1 FA Cup semi-final draw between the two clubs at the Baseball Ground on Wednesday night.

Wilson's consolation prize

Non-League Football by Paul Newman

Paul Wilson, whose hopes of a professional football career were ended last month by a knee injury, has received some consolation in the form of a place in the England semi-professional squad to take his place in the party in Wales at Merthyr Tydfil on March 18.

inclusion of Russell Wilcox, a midfielder player, and the Yorkshire club might have had three players in the squad if Paul Shirriff had been available.

John Overton, the player-manager of Goole Town, and his assistant Terry Vallance have lost their jobs after less than five months. Goole are bottom of the Multipart League.

Ryhope CA have appointed Peter Quigley, the former Whiteley Bay, manager and Durham City player, as manager in succession to Peter Feenan, who left last month to take over another Drybroughs Northern League club, Gretna.

THE RIGHT PLACE TO BE... THE TIMES



Winding up before winding down: Gerrie Coetzee and his trainer, Willie Locke, wrapping up at the Londale gym five days before Coetzee's World Boxing Association final heavyweight eliminator against Frank Bruno at Wembley

Lyle is finding it hard to qualify

From John Ballantine, Coral Springs, Florida

The vast differences in climate and conditions between playing golf in the United States and whacking the 'green' around in the United States has rarely been better demonstrated than by Sandy Lyle's disastrous opening round yesterday on his return to the United States after his three-week sojourn at Sunningdale to attend the birth of a second son to his wife Christine.

The Army break into a run

By Sydney Friskin

The Army went on the march at Bisham Abbey yesterday to spoil the record of the Civil Service, who had looked invincible after they had beaten the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. On this performance the Army must be favourites to retain the title in the Services championships starting at Willsden on Monday.

Shapter clear

Lester Shapter, the referee, has escaped being charged by the Football Association after remarks he is alleged to have made to Danny Wallace, the Southampton and England winger.

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Lester Shapter, the referee, has escaped being charged by the Football Association after remarks he is alleged to have made to Danny Wallace, the Southampton and England winger.

Thorne cruises through

opening frame, 113-0.

Willie Thorne rolled home a succession of majestic breaks to cruise to his second major final of the season in the Dulux British Open at Derby yesterday.

FOR THE RECORD

NONCHETTI CLUB (women's) beat local rivals... NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL)...

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL)...

FOOTBALL

FREIGHT ROVER TRIP: Southern section... SOUTH-WEST: Southern section...

THE TIMES

RACING

Courses to get £10m from Levy Board

The Levy Board plan to make more than £10 million available for the modernization of Britain's racecourses before the end of the decade. The need to improve facilities at the race-track was described as an urgent priority in the board's 1985 Strategy Review, published yesterday.

Other plans include the granting of an extra 20 evening meetings next year and a re-examination of the way prize money is allocated.

The grants for racecourse improvements are paid out of the board's capital fund which gave £2.5 million for this purpose in the last complete financial year, 1984-85. The projected figures for the three years following the current financial year are: 1986-87, £3 million; 1987-88, £3 million; 1988-89, £3.5 million.

OXFORD TORPIDS

Oriel rowed over at the head of Oxford University Torpids yesterday. Keble trailed so far behind as not to offer the remotest threat. Pembroke, in third place, were well out of touch with Keble, but could be challenged by Christ Church.

WOMEN

DIVISION I: Bransmore bpd Exeter; Worcester bpd Queen's; St Catherine's bpd Jesus; New College bpd Jesus.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated. Third division: Newport v Watlington. Fourth division: Cambridge v Hatfield; Southend v Mansfield; Trainers v Exeter.

THE TIMES

